

£534m trade deficit is worst ever

Britain's visible trade deficit in November was £534m, the largest monthly deficit ever recorded and £99m higher than the October total. Department of Trade figures show that the

deterioration occurred in spite of a drop in the deficit on oil and oil products. The value of exports fell by £49m last month, while imports jumped by £50m.

Blow to Government's economic policy

By Melvyn Westlake
Economics Staff

A dramatic deterioration in Britain's overseas trade position last month has dealt a serious blow to the Government's economic policy. At £534m, the visible trade deficit in November was the largest ever recorded in a single month, and £99m worse than in October. Official figures released by the Department of Trade yesterday showed that this deterioration occurred in spite of a drop in the deficit on oil and oil products. On the international exchange, the rate for sterling again fell heavily, although much of the selling appeared to take place about lunch-time in expectation of the trade news. The pound fell a further cent against the dollar to \$2.3075. Its effective depreciation against 10 key currencies, compared with three years ago, worsened sharply to 21.9 per cent, the weakest level ever, from 21.4 per cent on Wednesday evening. November was the third consecutive month in which the visible trade deficit has worsened. The value of exports fell last month by £49m to £1,297m, compared with £1,346m in October. Imports, however, jumped £50m to £1,831m.

After allowance has been made for an estimated £130m surplus on invisible earnings, that is, trade in services, transfers, and profits, interest and dividends, the November current account deficit comes out at £404m, against £305m for the previous month.

The sharp rise in Britain's import bill in November appears to be mainly explained by the delivery of three large aircraft from British Airways and unusually high imports of ships. However, the trade figures cannot be other than a big disappointment to the Government.

Since the summer there have been signs that the non-oil deficit was beginning to widen again after the promising improvement of earlier months. The latest non-oil deficit is the largest for a year.

There was, in fact, a fall from £330m to £307m on Britain's oil deficit. Over the past three months, imports of oil have fallen on average by about 3 per cent, while imports of other goods, particularly chemicals, machinery and cars, rose 2 per cent. More worrying, however, has been the stagnation in exports, which showed growth during the three months.

Although the Chancellor has been successful so far in encouraging the Arab countries to invest their oil surpluses in Britain and thereby help to finance the current account deficit, there is always the danger that a serious deterioration in the trade position could lead to a total loss of confidence in the British economy and a flight from sterling.

The recent estimate by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research that inflation in Britain may reach 25 per cent next year has led to a good deal of concern, while fears of a clash between the Government and the miners' union has further compounded these worries in recent days.

There has been much speculation in the City that there will soon have to be a fresh rise in domestic interest rates to attract a continuing flow of Middle East funds into London. Such a move would be resisted as long as possible because of its wide political implications.

The fall in interest rates in other countries in recent weeks has so far enabled Britain to avoid that choice and to reduce domestic rates slightly. Leading article, page 19 Table, page 21

EEC scheme for cheap sugar runs into snags

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Dec 12

The European Community's scheme to provide British newswriters with relatively cheap sugar has run into difficulties. The European Commission, which last week opened tenders for traders to buy up to 200,000 tons of sugar, has now announced that the price offered is too low. The Commission has decided to raise the price to £160 a ton. At the same time, to keep down the costs of the operation, traders sell part of next year's EEC crop on the futures market.

Commission officials blame the failure of the first stage of the scheme on the fact that forward sales have proved difficult during the closure of the Paris sugar market. They also suspect that traders may have been submitting optimistically high tenders in the hope that the Commission is so desperate to make the scheme work that it will pay exaggerated prices.

Officials are fairly confident that with the resumption of trading in Paris next week, subsequent tenders will be more successful. Meanwhile, the European Community is planning to sell 100,000 tons of its milk surplus at cut-rate prices to the developing world. Under proposals announced by the European Commission today, the Community would sell skimmed milk powder at a price of about £200 a ton, compared with a world price of about £250 a ton.

British Gas said yesterday that the increases will vary from 7 to 8 per cent in Scotland and south-west England, while in the north and east, increases will be 10 to 12 per cent. The new increases will add about £95m to revenue, but are still not enough to return British Gas, which made a £41m loss last year, to a profit.

Rhodesia constitutional conference in London forecast for next year

From Our Correspondent
Lusaka, Dec 12

A conference on the Rhodesian constitutional problem is expected here to take place in London early next year, probably in February. An announcement is likely in the next few days.

A statement issued by the African National Council, now the sole Rhodesian nationalist movement, said today: "Without precondition on both sides the fighting would stop immediately and meaningful negotiations with the leaders of the Rhodesian Front and with the British Government in Britain on the steps to be taken to achieve independence on the basis of majority rule."

The statement, signed by the four main leaders, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole and Mr James Chikerema, says that as a demonstration of their sincerity "all freedom fighters will be instructed, as soon as a date for negotiations has been fixed, to suspend fighting."

Bishop Muzorewa later clarified this statement, according to news agency reports, saying it had been drawn up before a statement from Mr Smith saying he had been assured the fighting would stop immediately. "In other words," he said, "there is no contradiction. The position has been resolved and the question of a ceasefire with it," he said.

Bishop Muzorewa, Mr Nkomo and Mr Sithole left Lusaka today for Salisbury after scenes of jubilation from a crowd of several thousand. Michael Knipe, writes from Salisbury: A jubilant crowd greeted the three men when they appeared in Highfield, Salisbury's African township.

The crowd of about 2,000 thronged round the men and Mr Sithole, leader of the Zimbabwe African National Union, was picked up and carried shoulder high. Mr Nkomo, leader of the Zimbabwe African People's Union, remained on his feet but received an equally enthusiastic reception.

The two men, recently released from jail, were well dressed in lounge suits and looking healthy and alert. South African reaction and text of the statement, page 9 Leading article, page 19

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Gas prices go up next month by 12 per cent

By Roger Vielvoe
Energy Correspondent

Gas prices for domestic users will rise by an average of about 12 per cent in the new year, the British Gas Corporation announced yesterday. The Price Commission has approved its application for rises, which vary through the 12 regions.

The higher gas prices will be followed by increases in electricity prices. A 6 per cent increase to compensate for bigger power station fuel bills is on the way and a further 20 per cent increase in electricity prices is being formulated to return the industry to the black. Both rises are part of the Government's campaign to curb energy consumption by ensuring that realistic prices are charged and subsidies removed.

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Licensing curb over pig disease

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

The Ministry of Agriculture said last night that movements of pigs in England and Wales would be allowed only by licence from midnight tonight, after renewed outbreaks of swine vesicular disease.

To the past month 31 outbreaks have been confirmed, including five yesterday in Wiltshire, Cumbria and the Midlands. Almost 180,000 pigs have been slaughtered, costing farmers more than £5m, since the disease was first confirmed in Britain two years ago.

Farm wage clash: Farmworkers' leaders seeking a £35 minimum wage left a meeting of the Agricultural Wages Board last night determined to obstruct confirmation of a new £27.80 minimum (our Labour Staff writes). The board meets again on December 23.



Mr McGahey (left) after yesterday's meeting; and Mr Gornley addressing a press conference.

Moderate miners defeat attack by left wing

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The social contract yesterday survived a determined assault by left-wing miners' leaders after Mr Joseph Gornley, the miners' president, left his sick bed to overturn a ruling by the communist vice-president, Mr Michael McGahey, that tied the union to a militant wage demand.

The day-long political drama began when the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers were bitterly divided over their negotiating team's recommendation to pursue a package claim for £30 a week across the board for 270,000 miners. It came to a head with a walkout by 12 moderates, who protested at Mr McGahey's refusal to count six votes cast against militancy, and ended with Mr Gornley's defeat of a challenge to his constitutional authority and - set the union back on a moderate course.

precedent, Mr Gornley ruled that members of the executive were free to vote according to their conscience rather than in line with majority decisions of subcommittees on which they sit. On the casting vote of Mr McGahey, the negotiating committee opted seven to six three days ago for the militant claim, and while taking the chair he ruled - yesterday that six moderates present at that meeting could not vote against the committee's recommendation.

The doctrine of collective committee responsibility has been observed as custom and practice on the NUM executive, and it was supported by Mr Gornley in the past. But such was the intensity of political feeling that the president broke with previous practice and ordered a free vote. The result was a 14-12 rejection of the £30-a-week recommendation.

union will now meet the National Coal Board on Tuesday for exploratory talks on a claim for unspecified "substantial" increases, and the outcome will be considered at a special executive meeting the day after Mr McGahey, who with his political rival, Mr McGahey, will represent the NUM, declined to discuss figures yesterday, although he did say during the meeting that the face worker at present on £45 a week was worth £100. That, of course, will not be the claim.

Pressure brought to bear on the NUM to adhere to the voluntary wage restraint guidelines in the social contract from the TUC, the General Council of the TUC, and from Mr Peet, Secretary of State for Employment, was clearly a strong motivating factor in yesterday's decision.

ported us this last three years. I also want us to be seen to be helping the Labour Government to provide for those who may be worse off than us, and help inflation and deal with all the problems facing Britain. I do not want the NUM to be the nigger in the woodpile, because the NUM happens to be a very big nigger. That is not the best way for socialists to react to a Labour government. The country is in a hell of a mess. If we don't realise that, we could be in the catastrophe like everybody else. We would be damned foolish. I think there is a lot within the social contract that will allow miners to get substantial increases and still not be in conflict with what the TUC or the Minister of Employment says. I think there is sufficient room, if we use it, to get a good deal for miners. This was a vote for common sense."

Universities to get an extra £15m

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

Universities are to get an extra £15m to meet the rising costs of inflation. Mr Penrice, Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced to the Commons yesterday.

This follows the stiffest demand yet for more money in the form of a memorandum sent in October by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors to a government minister. Last week the committee's leaders had a special meeting with Mr Penrice to discuss the memorandum in which the vice-chancellors said they needed an increased grant of £24m this year to meet the costs of universities' running expenses.

The universities started the academic year 1974-75 with a recurrent grant of £370m. They were about £40m worse off than they should have been because the Government did not pay the usual supplementary grant to compensate for inflation. In July Mr Penrice was able to give universities an extra £4m. So assuming an inflation rate of about 20 per cent the universities are with the latest grant about £21m worse off than they might have expected.

Mr Penrice told the Commons that in due course he would announce new levels of university grants for the academic years 1975-77. But he added ominously that the new levels would take into account the fact that the number of students going to university has not risen as rapidly as was expected when the quinquennial began in 1972.

Mr Laurie Sapper, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said he was still very worried about the situation, although the grant would go some way towards meeting the universities' difficulties. He said: "There are still more than a thousand posts now left unfilled in the university sector, and there is evidence that the numbers of students will be significantly less."

Professor Arthur Armitage, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors, said: "This sum will obviously help universities in their grave situation. It clearly involves the continuation of substantial economies."

He also welcomed the Government's intention to announce the levels of grant for the next two academic years soon. The universities were already receiving students for 1975, he said, and the announcement of future grants and numbers would complete the financial picture essential for planning ahead until the end of the present quinquennium.

Mr Penrice also told the Commons that the United Kingdom intended to accede to the convention establishing a European University Institute for 500 postgraduate students in Florence.

Upset stomach halts Wilson engagements

By Penny Symon

The Prime Minister has a stomach upset and has been advised by his doctor to cancel all engagements for the next three days, it was announced from 10 Downing Street yesterday.

Mr Wilson was to have made a statement in the Commons yesterday on the EEC summit meeting in Paris earlier this week, and that has been postponed until Monday. His Commons questions were taken by Mr Short, deputy leader of the Labour Party.

"The Prime Minister has a minor viral infection which has caused an upset stomach," a Downing Street spokesman said yesterday. Mr Wilson was to have met representatives from the TUC General Council about the Shrewsbury pickets, and to have attended a dinner for voluntary organisations last night, but both engagements have been postponed.

Our Political Editor writes: A six-page White Paper reprinting the communiqué issued at the end of the Paris EEC summit meeting was published yesterday. Some left-wing Labour MPs had hoped to press questions about it on Mr Wilson at a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party at the House last night.

Diary, page 18

Engineers call for prompt and big rises

Leaders of the engineering unions, representing about 2,500,000 workers, yesterday agreed to seek an increase of at least 18 a week on basic rates, and to insist on a quick settlement.

Some union leaders are said to believe that an increase of £18, to bring the weekly basic rate to £50, would be more appropriate. Mr Hugh Scanlon is expected to lead the unions in their talks with the employers. Page 4

Israel planes attack Palestinian camp

Israel jets yesterday raided a Palestinian camp in Beirut. This followed a bomb attack by a Palestinian terrorist in a Tel Aviv cinema, in which one of the two persons killed was British. An Israeli aircraft also attacked fishing boats in the Lebanese port of Sarafand. Page 8

EEC budget altered

The European Parliament yesterday asserted for the first time its new legislative power to change the EEC budget. British Conservative MPs, returning hurriedly from the Commons, helped to carry the first vote against the Council of Ministers by 110 to nil, with one abstention. Page 7

Cowdrey in Test 12

Colin Cowdrey is among 12 players from whom England will choose their team for the second Test match against Australia starting at Perth today. Amis, Edrich, Lever and Hendrick were ruled out by illness or injury. Page 16

Bonn's economic precautions

A series of measures aimed at expanding the economy without increasing inflation, and countering a further weakening of general economic activity, were announced yesterday by the West German Government after two days of Cabinet meetings.

Among the measures is a boost of DM1,130m (about £198m) for industrial investment and DM600m (about £105m) to counter unemployment. Page 21

Journalists' strike called

The National Union of Journalists has recommended 8,000 provincial journalists to strike from January 1 to back a pay claim. 2

Language experiment

Teaching French at primary-school age is of no real advantage, study of 11-year national trials decides. 6

New trial: Conviction of a youth for theft was quashed by the Court of Appeal because he pleaded guilty under pressure. Law Report 12

Men's oral contraceptive: Hormones already in use to treat bone disorders have induced reversible sterility with no harmful side-effects, two Australian scientists say. Science Report 16

Saudi assurance: Mr Healey is believed to have been given assurances that there has been no change in Saudi Arabian investment policy. 21

Watches: A two-page Special Report on the industry, with ideas for Christmas presents. 30-31

Arts, page 11

Lord Harewood gives an exclusive interview to John Eggar about the resumption of opera at the London Coliseum. Leader, page 19

Letters: On the advertisement concerning Britain and Israel, from Dr Adrian Ziderman and others. Leading articles: Sterlog; Progress in Rhodesia. Features, pages 12 and 18

Richard Harris explains why East Asia is determined to keep the West a world away. Sport, pages 15-17

Cricket: English counties receive smaller share-out from Test and County Cricket Board. Business News, pages 21-23

Stock market: Gilt weakened again, and share prices turned down after the announcement of the UK trade deficit. The FT index fell 0.4 to 150.0. Financial Editor: Implications of Distillers' projected cutbacks; support pointers from National Commercial; objective approach to bond ratings.

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HOME NEWS

Report on method of electing Tory chief goes to Mr Heath

By Political Staff

Mr Heath has received the report from the committee he set up to examine the election of the Conservative Party leader. The committee, headed by Mr Alec Douglas-Home, has recommended that the party should elect its leader by a vote of the party members, rather than by the party conference as at present. Mr Heath is expected to accept the recommendation, which would mean that he would be elected by a vote of the party members at the next party conference. The committee also recommended that the party should elect its deputy leader by a vote of the party members, rather than by the party conference as at present. Mr Heath is expected to accept this recommendation also.

whether it would be an effective way of consulting the party in the country to give a few area chairmen a single vote each in the same way as any Conservative MP.

Even if all the area chairmen voted together they could command no more than a very small block of votes in such an election. It might be better it is argued, simply to allow the party in the country to exercise its influence with MPs, and it would be no surprise if the present electoral college is left undisturbed.

Another question is whether it should still be possible for a new candidate to emerge in the second ballot if he had not stood in the first. This is permitted now and could be more than academic importance for Mr Whitelaw's chances.

He has consistently maintained that he would not stand against Mr Heath. But if Mr Heath were to do badly in a first ballot it is always possible that he might then leave the field clear to Mr Whitelaw to the second.

Among Mr Heath's challengers, support has been gathering for Mr Edward du Cann, the chairman of the 1972 Committee. Mr du Cann has also insisted publicly and privately that he will not be a candidate. But a number of Conservative MPs, particularly among the younger members, are hoping he will change his mind.

Motorway contract allegations denied

By a Staff Reporter

Allegations by a former motorway engineer that up to £1m of public money was overpaid on a Gloucestershire motorway contract were denied last night by the supervising engineers and the contractors.

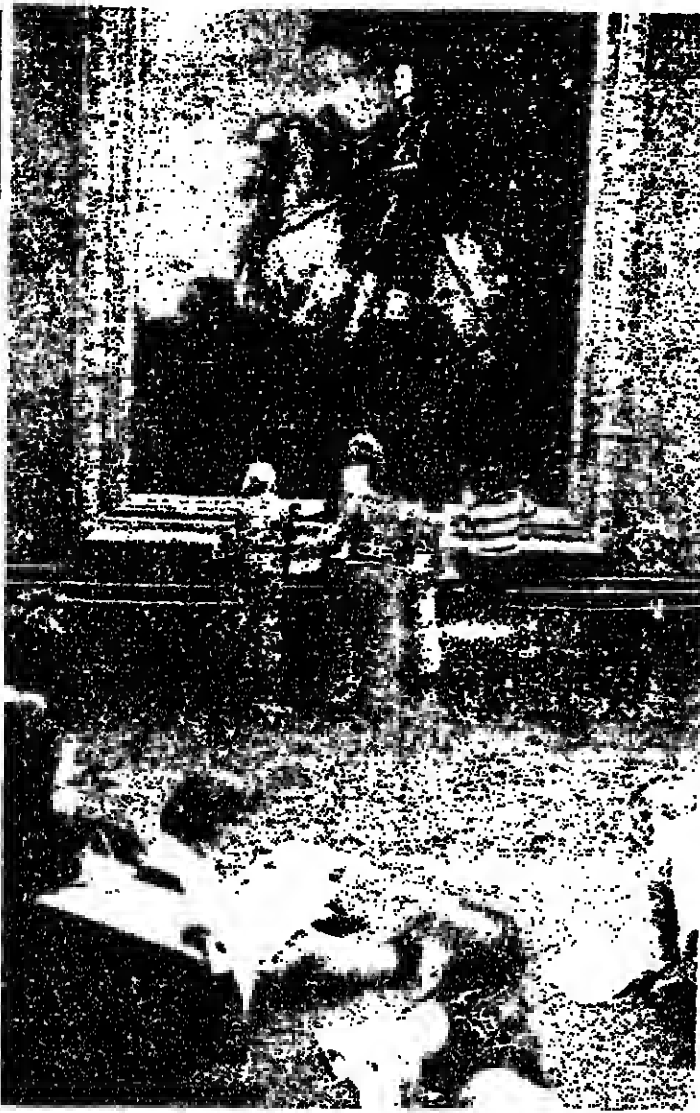
An independent new survey of the quantities measured as the work went on has been commissioned by the Department of the Environment.

Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Conservative MP for Gloucester, said last night that she was not satisfied with the progress of an inquiry into the delay in investigating complaints by the engineer, Mr Neil James.

Mr James said yesterday that the £450,000 referred to in his original allegations covered only a section of the works: "As much as a £1m could be involved."

The motorway contract concerned was based on a tender of £1m. Supervised by Freeman, Fox and Partners, consulting engineers it was carried out by a consortium including Cementation Construction Ltd and Leonard Fairclough Ltd.

Sir Ralph Freeman, senior partner of Freeman, Fox, said last night: "The allegations referred to can be taken to impugn our professional integrity. Mr Victor Matthews, managing director of Trafalgar House Investments, which owns Cementation, said he did not think any excessive profit had been made on the contract."



Pupils taking part yesterday in the National Gallery's first holiday "event" for children.

Charolais bulls with eye defect not to get breeding licence

By a Staff Reporter

The British Veterinary Association has decided not to license Charolais bulls for breeding if they are suffering from an hereditary and congenital eye defect called coloboma.

The decision will cause controversy because of the large sums of money involved. Since the big white cattle were first imported from France a decade ago, they have been one of the most successful breeds for beef and for cross-breeding. No fewer than 12 of the 16 cattle that won championships at Smithfield, including the supreme champion, were Charolais or Charolais crosses.

A survey by Dr Keith Barnett of Cambridge University, one of the world's great experts in

diseases of animals' eyes, has shown that the Charolais herd in Britain is saturated with coloboma; 30 per cent of the cattle he examined were affected.

Coloboma is a congenital fissure in the eye, which may extend to the head of the optic nerve, seriously affecting the animal's vision and sometimes causing total blindness. French veterinarians do not pay much attention to the condition, on the ground that it does not affect an animal's conformation or breeding capacity. The British take the view that bad eyesight makes a bull dangerous to handle, and must be bad for its temperament.

Under the Bull Licensing Scheme introduced by the Act of 1931, no animal with an

hereditary defect can be used for breeding. A veterinary surgeon, signs a declaration that in his professional opinion the bull to be licensed is not of defective or inferior conformation, that it is not likely to beget defective or inferior progeny, and that it is not suffering from any hereditary defect or disease.

Until 1972 the licensing inspection was done by livestock officers of the Ministry of Agriculture. In that year veterinarians started to do it, and for the first time bull's eyes were minutely inspected. Coloboma, except in its most aggravated state, is not detectable except by ophthalmoscopy.

The British Veterinary Association have decided that it is prudent to set about stamping out the defect now.

Many big mental hospitals at fault

By John Roper

Medical Reporter

More than a third of Britain's larger mental hospitals were below minimum staff standards in 1972, the year hospital authorities were asked to improve the situation by the end of this year, a government report says today.

That was in spite of an increase over the previous decade of about 60 per cent in psychiatric consultants for every 100,000 population, and a doubling of medical, ward and domestic staff for every hundred patients.

The Department of Health said last night that 1973 returns showed that fewer hospitals now were below the minimum standard set in 1972.

The report, a statistical survey of mental hospitals and hospitals for the mentally handicapped in 1972, shows the pressure under which they operate. In 115 mental hospitals with 200 or more beds, 40 came below minimum standards of staffing and 26 below on staffing and patients' amenities. In 30 hospitals half the patients were without a personal locker.

Of the 74 larger hospitals for the mentally handicapped, 20 were below minimum staff standards and 30 below standard on staff and patients' amenities.

The report says that the number of patients in mental hospitals for every 1,000 of the population had fallen by a quarter since 1964 but the admission rate had increased by almost an eighth. The rate since 1966 for day patients had doubled and that for new outpatients had increased by a third.

The Facilities and Services of Mental Illness and Mental Handicap Hospitals in England and Wales, Stationery Office, £1.20.

All for delay on Bill affecting editors

Parliamentary Staff

Government would have a more conciliatory attitude towards newspaper editors if the difficulties they face in a closed shop posed for them a more serious problem of the press. Mr Opposition spokesman on the Bill, said yesterday.

He appealed to the Government to stand on the Trade Union Relations (Amendment) Bill until after the recess to enable further discussions between the Government and the TUC. The Government proposes to repeal those provisions in the amending Bill.

Mr Hayhoe, an Opposition spokesman on employment, said it was essential there should be some legislative safeguard in addition to the proposed action of the TUC to set up an independent review body to deal with complaints over expulsion or exclusion.

Strong support for the TUC proposal came from Mr Sillars, Labour MP for Ayrshire, South. To the trade unionists some things that happened were scandalous and could not be defended by anyone, he said. His experience was that who that happened people of the seniority likely to be appointed to the review committee could talk toughly to the way those who had been involved in making practices understood.

Mr Goodhart, Conservative MP for Bromley, Beckenham, said that if the right of editors to recruit staff directly to Fleet Street without their having to go through a lengthy apprenticeship procedure was abolished it would be a grave infringement of the freedom of the press, but the review committee proposed by the TUC was not likely to deal with points of that sort.

The health of Fleet Street demanded that editors should be able to do that, but if there was to be a closed shop, even with the proposed review committee, he doubted whether it would be possible.

Mr Booth, Labour MP for the debate, said they were not considering taking away rights from individuals but the most effective way of securing them. Discussion of the amendment was adjourned until Tuesday.

NUJ proposal was that should begin with inter-bodies, including the Press Publishers Association, the Guild of Newspaper Editors, and the National Union of Journalists, which could be incorporated in any agreement between the NUJ and the press.

'Crocodile tears' attack on NUJ by Mr Scanlon

Labour Staff

Hugh Scanlon today attacked the "crocodile tears" of editors for so-called freedom. "They count the cost of those at the top end of the scale of the trade union movement from controlling most of the national and provincial press," he says.

ing to the journal of the United Union of Engin Workers, of which he is a member. Mr Scanlon adds: "The right to distort, or worse, vital aspects of when such items conflict with preconceived ideas of editors."

ring to the recent dispute between the National Association of Journalists and the members of Apex, the Union, at his own union in Peckham, south London, he adds: "They (the proprietors) condemn as reprehensible the trade sanctions exercised by the against themselves but, notably, such sanctions are not fully justified when they are imposed by one trade union on another, as instanced in the recent dispute with

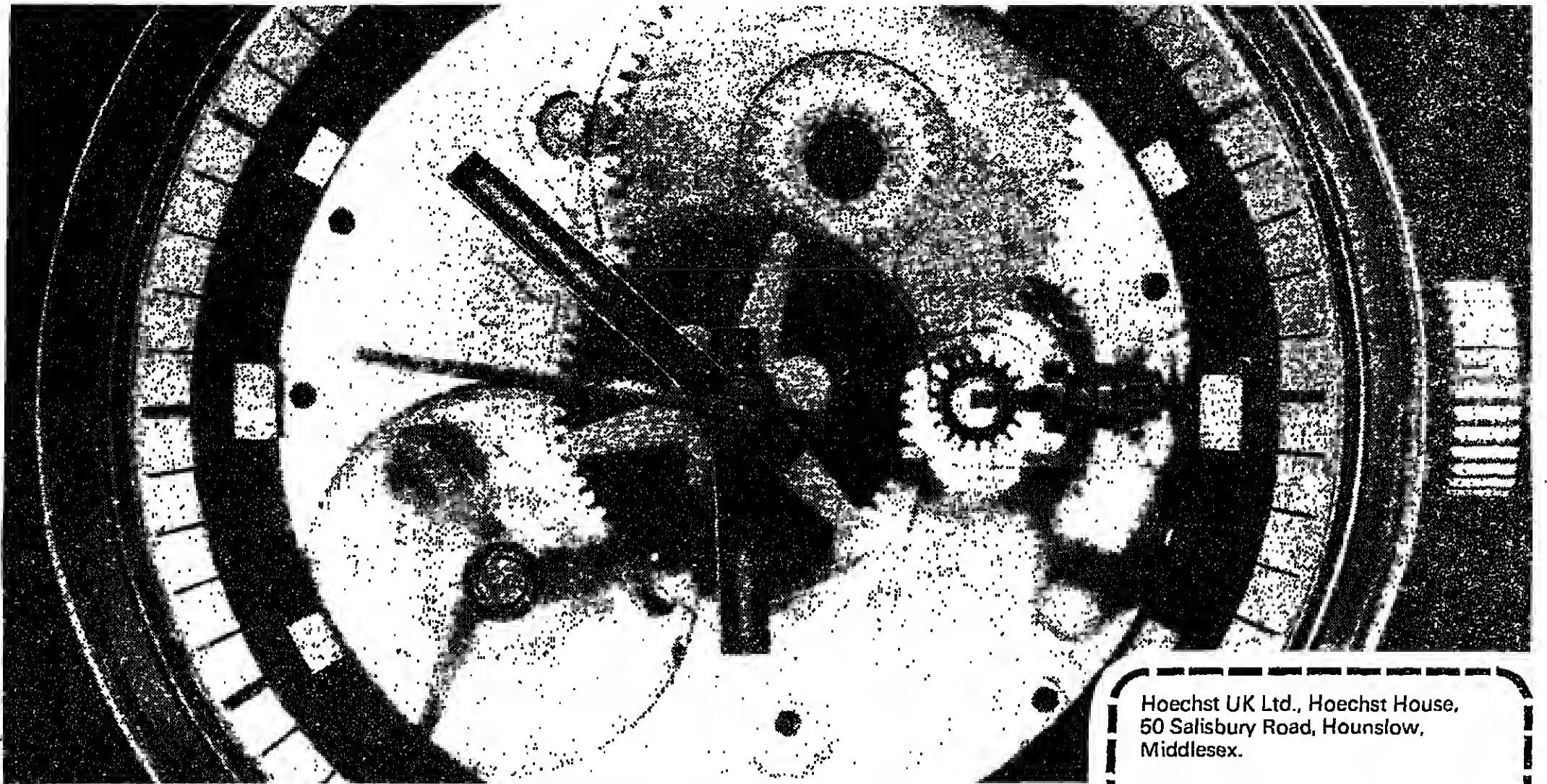
also seems that editorial means glorifying head-describing Peckham Road (headquarters) and emotive state attributed to young girls,

many of whom have never before been involved in a dispute."

Drawing an analogy between press coverage of the Apex dispute and a future dispute between engineering workers and the Engineering Employers' Federation, Mr Scanlon says that claims for £13 a week increases, like those Apex members demanded, will presumably be supported by the press, and the engineering employers will be described as "arrogant and selfish" when they refuse.

Union membership: Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, refused to change his line on the question of editors being able to opt out of union membership once his closed-shop Bill becomes law (the Press Association reports). Replying to a letter from Mr Cyril Smith, Liberal spokesman on employment, who said the National Union of Journalists was prepared to accept exemption for editors and asked why the Government could not do the same, Mr Foot said his understanding was that the NUJ felt it could live with a situation in which editors were not compelled to be members but that was not a course they favoured.

"Indeed, they are opposed to it, because they consider it wrong to legislate for particular occupations," Mr Foot added. "They feel strongly that the right approach is to come to an agreement on the safeguards which ought to be incorporated in closed-shop agreements."



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HOME NEWS

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Engineers to demand settlement of big increase without delay

By R. W. Shakespeare
Northern Industrial Correspondent

Leaders of the engineering workers' unions agreed yesterday on the details of what is likely to be the most expensive pay claim ever to face the industry, on behalf of about 2,500,000 workers. They also warned employers that attempts to delay a settlement would be met by industrial action.

The national executive of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions will table the claim with the Engineering Employers' Federation and the shipbuilding employers within a week or two, and press for negotiations to be opened at the start of the new year. The unions want a settlement by the time the present national agreement expires at the end of March.

The confederation, the central union negotiating body for the industry, will demand a substantial increase in basic rates right across the industry. So far no figure has been given, but it is already clear that the minimum acceptable is likely to include a new basic rate of £40 a week.

When the present agreement runs out, the rate for skilled men will be £32 for a 40-hour week.

However, even £40 is regarded by some union leaders as far too low compared with other sectors. They would regard £50 a week as a more realistic target. The confederation is dropping its long-standing demand for a reduction in the working week from 40 to 35 hours, although that remains a longer-term objective.

The unions will, however, press for an increase in statutory holidays from seven to 12 days a year in addition to the present standard three weeks. They will also demand immediate equal pay for women workers.

Mr Jack Service, general

secretary of the confederation, said in York: "We have agreed to mount an immediate publicity campaign among all union memberships on the question of possible militant action in support of this claim, in the event of unnecessary delays by the employers." In the past, they had experienced delaying tactics and settlements had been deferred for up to nine months.

Negotiations will be led by Mr Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, who is chairman of the confederation's engineering committee. He is known to favour putting a firm figure on the wages demand at the outset, rather than adopting the more flexible "substantial increase" approach.

However, the interpretation to be put on "substantial" by both sides will quickly emerge once negotiations begin. Actual skilled earnings vary considerably from firm to firm, ranging between £35 a week to about £65. The real significance of a nationally agreed minimum rate is its bearing on such things as overtime, holiday rates, and incentive and bonus payments. Any sizable increase in basic rates would have a marked effect on wage costs throughout the industry.

The claim is being tabled at a time when the industry faces a very uncertain future. Many firms are already experiencing serious financial problems.

The confederation executive has clearly taken some note of that, and the new claim omits some of the planks that have been in the policy for some time. The executive expressed growing concern about the motor industry and its influence on large sectors of engineering. Within the next two weeks, the union leaders will be meeting Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, to discuss moves to take a stake in British Leyland.



The new Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan (centre) with his sponsors, the Bishops of London (left) and Southwark, before his maiden speech in the Lords yesterday. Parliamentary report, page 14.

Hospital pay claim sets £30 as basic

By Our Labour Staff

Union leaders today will demand a £30 a week minimum wage for 220,000 hospital manual workers. An initial pay offer which fell short by 52p has been rejected.

Negotiators will meet at the Department of Health and Social Security and are reasonably confident that four of the five points in their claim will be met. They expect to be offered consolidation of the £4.40 a week threshold payments into basic rates, a job evaluation exercise, an increase in shift allowance, and equal pay for women from February

British Airways cuts Spanish fares 40%

By Arthur Read

Air Correspondent

Reductions in some fares to Europe, and a big expansion of cargo services across the North Atlantic were announced by British Airways yesterday.

The lower fares, to eight destinations in Spain and Portugal, are aimed at increasing the flow of tourists. They have been agreed in cooperation with the state airlines of the two European countries, Iberia and TAP, and with reductions of 40p in the pound will make some fares cheaper than they were before the fuel crisis began at the end of 1973.

An example of the new fares quoted yesterday by BA was £63.80 return between London and Malaga compared with £90.30 today. Other routes on which they will apply are those to Alicante, Almeria, Palma, Valencia, Faro, Lisbon and Oporto.

To qualify for the new fares, passengers will have to stay at their destination for not less than 10 days and not longer than

one month during the summer, April to the end of October, and for not more than two months in the winter.

Mr William Robbins, general manager (commercial) of the BA European division, said: "We think the fares will be a boon for tourists who rent or own flats and villas, or who visit friends and relatives in Spain, Portugal or the United Kingdom."

BA is to expand its North Atlantic cargo services in a new agreement with American Airlines which will make 20 additional cities available for British exporters, while providing increased capacity and frequency to Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

The deal will effectively triple the capacity offered by BA. Freight will go by BA jumbo jets and Boeing 707s to gateway cities such as New York, Washington, Chicago, Miami, Boston and Detroit, where it will be transferred to American Airlines freighters for onward shipment.

Couple saw daughter dead in deep freezer

A couple searching for their missing daughter found her body in the deep freeze at her home, a judge was told yesterday. Their son-in-law later told the police that he had killed her in a fit of jealousy after an argument over other men in her life, it was said.

Brian Ernest Fairbairn, aged 36, former builder of Sparrow Farm Drive, Feltham, Middlesex, pleaded not guilty at the Central Criminal Court to murdering his wife, Denise Anne, aged 28, in May.

Mr Barry Hudson, QC, for the defence, told Mr Justice Theobald that the killing was admitted. "The only issue will be manslaughter on the grounds of provocation," he said.

Mr Brian Leary, for the prosecution, said Mr Fairbairn appeared to have stabbed his wife, rendered her unconscious by a blow to the head, and then covered her body in macabre way while he fled to Spain. There was no way of determining now whether she was alive when put in the deep freezer.

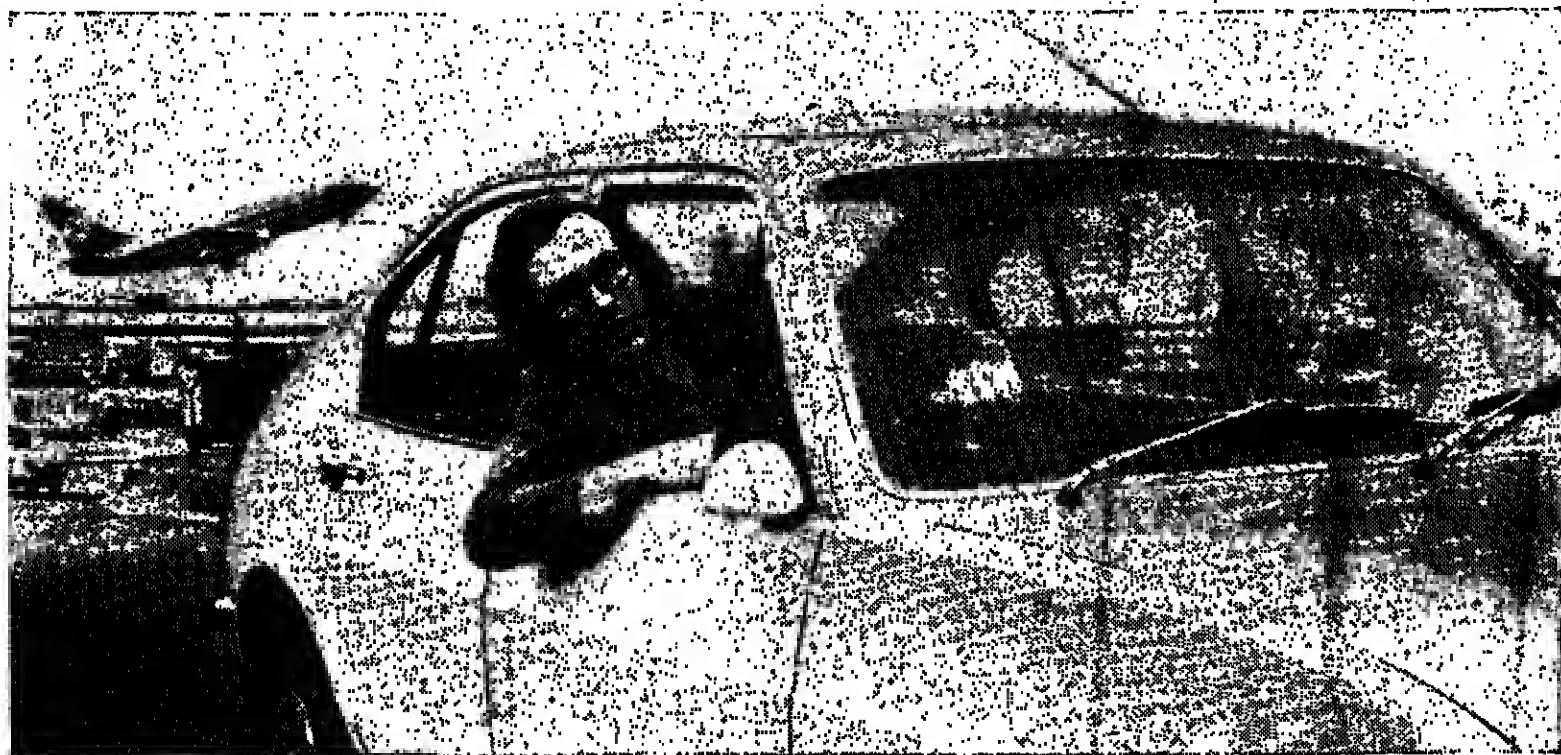
Mr Fairbairn's parents forced their way into the apparently empty house, Mr Leary said, and the father decided to switch off the deep freezer if there was nothing much in it. He moved some articles and saw the body of his daughter, deep-frozen.

Mr Leary said there were four children, boys aged 10 and 11 and girls aged nine and eight.

Mr Fairbairn, he said, was seen by the police in Bilbao, Spain, and said he had killed the wife one midday while the children were at school.

Mr Leary said Mr Fairbairn told the British vice-consul that afterwards he collected his passport, and hitch-hiked, through France to Spain, where he spent his time in bars.

He said before a Spanish judge-magistrate: "I don't know why I did it. I thought a bit of her, but it was jealousy. She came in on May 9 about 1.15 pm and I made coffee. Another row started about other men I don't know who they were. We were both shouting and the next thing she was dead. We already had an arrangement to part from each other."



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Meanwhile we're improving the airport as fast as we can. Have a good holiday.



More children in care over bad housing

By Our Social Services Correspondent

More children went into care last year, at White Paper disclosed yesterday. Homelessness and bad housing, responsible for 7,182 cases, an increase of 672 over 1972, were the main causes.

On March 31, 1973, there were 93,188 children in care in England and Wales, 2,602 more than in 1972.

The increase number going into care because of bad housing continues a trend that has been noticeable in recent years. The numbers were offset by a slight fall in children coming into care because their families became homeless through eviction: 888 last year, compared with 1,155 in 1972.

The average cost a child in care to local authorities rose to £17.27 a week, from £12.92 in 1972. The cost in a local authority home was £28.45, in a voluntary home £18.30 and in a foster-home £5.14. The respective 1972 figures were £23.93, £14.37 and £4.62.

Children in Care in England and Wales 1973 (Cmd 5815, Stationery Office, 24p).

Voting on death penalty

To supplement the division list on capital punishment which appeared in later editions of The Times yesterday, the House of Commons order paper yesterday, shows that the following also voted:

Against the amendment: Conservatives: I. Stewart (Hitchin); Labour: D. Anderson (Swansea East), G. Grant (Morpeh), D. Gilling (Dorchester), Y. Mitchell (Southampton Itchen), C. Phipps (Dudley, West), T. Walker (Kingswood), A. Williams (Swansea West), R. Thomas (Bristol North West). Tellers: J. Golding (Newcastle-under-Lyme) and Mrs M. Miller (Redbridge, Ilford, North). For the amendment: Conservatives: M. Allison (Barkston Ash), J. Riggs-Davison (Epping Forest), G. Cow (Eastbourne), P. Plank (Portsmouth, South). Tellers: R. Eyre (Birmingham, Hall Green).

£75,000 bail for three accused

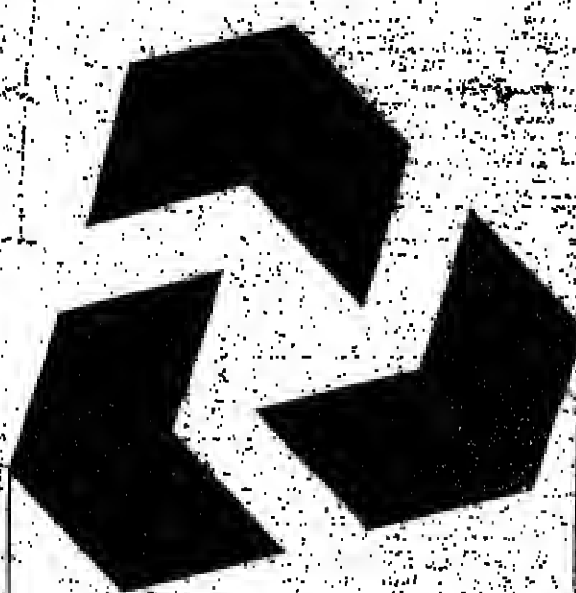
Ivor Gershfield, aged 46, an economist, of Chase Side, Southgate; Isidor Heller, aged 47, a company director, of Hendon Avenue, Golders Green, and Asmiel Heller, aged 45, a retired businessman, of The Ridgeway, Golders Green, were charged at Guildhall yesterday with conspiring together between January, 1969, and May, 1971, to cheat and defraud eight banks in Israel by taking steps to render worthless letters of guarantee given by Heller and Partners.

They were remanded on bail totally £75,000 until June 30, 1975, because of difficulties in securing witnesses from Israel.

Economics degrees

A strategy for putting economics back on its feet as a degree subject is proposed today in The Times Higher Education Supplement by Professor Walter Elkan. There are also articles on universities and trade unions.

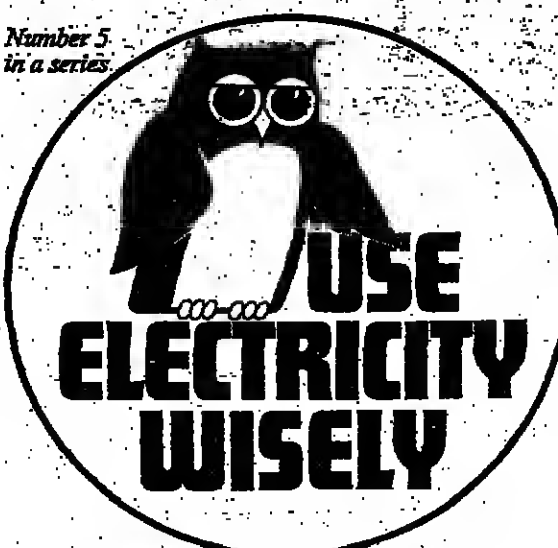
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The Electricity Council, England & Wales

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The new Volvo 245.

HOME NEWS

Study finds no gain in teaching French to primary-age children

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

There is no advantage to be gained from teaching French in primary schools, an important report on an 11-year-old nationwide experiment, published today, says.

The study by the National Foundation for Educational Research says that pupils taught French from the age of eight do not show any substantial gains compared with those taught French from the age of 11.

By the time the children taught early are ready to go to secondary school half have had enough of French, get a sense of failure, and arrive at their new school with a positive sense of hostility towards learning French, the report says.

It says there is no evidence that younger children are better than older children at learning foreign language skills. If anything, the reverse seemed to be true. "The sheer amount of time spent learning a foreign language appears to be the dominant factor affecting success, not the age at which the period of learning began."

After 10 years looking at the experiment, which was started by the Ministry of Education in 1963, the team under Dr Clare Burstall, deputy director of the foundation, concludes: "The weight of the evidence has combined with the balance of opinion to tip the scales against the possible expansion of the teaching of French in primary schools."

One hundred and twenty-five schools took part in the pilot scheme with French, and teachers were given in-service training courses. The study examined the 18,000 pupils who took part.

It also found that the farther from Calais the children were, the more their interest in the language waned. Girls were better at French than boys, but both boys and girls in single-sex schools did better than children in mixed schools. It is estimated that more than 4,500 of the 22,700 primary schools in England and Wales teach French.

Primary French in the Balance: NFER, The Mere, Upton Park, Slough, Berkshire. Price £3.75.

Schools running out of supplies, union says

By Our Education Correspondent

Many schools will run out of exercise books, rulers, and other essential equipment by next April because they cannot afford the "soaring costs" of paper and wood, the National Union of Teachers says today.

A union survey of manufacturers and suppliers of school equipment has found that bills for school equipment have risen in the past year by two fifths.

Since 1972 the price of exercise books and the average price of paper-based goods have gone up by 80 per cent, pens by 73 per cent, rulers by 73 per cent and deal wood, commonly used in school equipment, by as much as 108 per cent.

That means that local authorities are paying half as much again for school desks, chairs, bookcases and nearly 30 per cent more for blackboards.

Metalwork benches cost 84 per cent more than two years ago.

The cost of musical instruments has rocketed in some cases by 130 per cent. Gymnastic equipment has risen by anything up to 80 per cent.

Mr Fred Jarvis, the union's general secretary, says in a statement published today that all those rises have taken place at a time when local authority spending on equipment has risen by about 29 per cent in primary and by 15.5 per cent in secondary schools.

He said: "We quoted some of the costs revealed by the survey to Mr Prentice, Secretary of State for Education and Science, last week, and I think he was shaken by the fantastic extent of price rises."

"Most schools are fighting an impossible battle to maintain necessary levels of equipment and, unless much greater provision can be made in the 1975-76 Estimates, the education of many children will be handicapped by the lack of basic essentials."

Casino owner accused

John Tsigarides, aged 44, a casino owner, is to appear before Torbay magistrates today, accused of conspiracy to defeat the course of justice.

He was detained by the police

after abandoning an appeal at Exeter Crown Court on Wednesday against the refusal by licensing justices to renew a gaming licence at his Carlton Club, at Torquay.

Lord Justice Scarman says law is failing us

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

The legal system had failed to meet the challenge of today's society, Lord Justice Scarman said last night, summing up the main theme of his four Hamlyn lectures. That was so both in connexion with the country's international obligations and on the internal scene.

A law of torts, a land law, and a family law conceived on common law principles, however admirable in substance, cannot effectively protect the general public or the weak, the poor, the aged and the sick," he said. The common law system was "being remanded to corners of the house which are unvisited by most members of society."

The result might be that rights and liberties would come to depend on an oblique and would be declared and defined by a complex government machinery, subject not to the rule of law administered by the ordinary courts but to administrative and political controls beyond the grasp of the law. Justice in the field of human rights, the social security system of a welfare state, the protection of the environment, industrial relations and constitutional devolution, the law and the legal profession had been found wanting, Lord Justice Scarman said.

His proposals to cure these inadequacies were:

1. A new constitutional settlement replacing that of 1689 to be worked out by Parliament, the Law Commission, and the Government through a phased programme of study, research and extensive consultation.
2. The basis of the new settlement should be entrenched provisions (including a Bill of Rights) and restraints upon administrative and legislative power, proceeding from attack by a bare majority in Parliament.
3. Supreme Court of the United Kingdom charged with the duty of protecting the constitution; if regional devolution comes, the problems of competing legislatures could be handled by the court, which would be at the pinnacle of the ordinary courts of the land.
4. An immediate study should be begun of the problems of codification coupled with the associated problems of statutory drafting and interpretation in the new context of entrenched provisions and codified law.
5. Machinery should be established for handling the continuing problems of the law's development and reform, with special reference to administrative law.

Judges, practitioners and teachers of law had to look to the new sources and fields of law and abandon habits of thought and action derived from a society that no longer exists, Lord Justice Scarman concluded.



Spike Milligan as Ben Gunn and Jonathan Scott Taylor as Jim Hawkins in the Mermaid Theatre's musical production of *Treasure Island*, which opens on Monday.

Safety fears by divers in North Sea oilfields

Up to half of the 800 deep sea divers working in the British sector of the North Sea oilfields are accident-prone men who are "just not up to standard", Mr Michael Crichton-Todd, general secretary of the newly formed Association of British Professional Divers, said yesterday.

He is organizing a one-day safety health and welfare diving conference at Aston University, Birmingham, next Wednesday, of its type in Britain. At it, divers will call for better safety measures in the North Sea oilfields.

They are chiefly worried by the growing number of inexperienced divers in the oilfields and the scope of government safety regulations which become effective on January 1, 1975.

Mr Crichton-Todd, aged 29, of Stoke-on-Trent, a former Royal Navy diver, now working in the Piper Field, a hundred miles east of Shetland, said inexperienced divers were being attracted to the oilfields by wages.

"Many of them go direct from some tranquil gravel training school direct to the raging waters of the North Sea", he added. "They are really scuba divers and the professionals call them scuba divers."

"I am not knocking the schools; there are six I know of in various parts of the country. But their courses are far too short, three or four weeks usually, and their divers are just not up to the job when they get out to the North Sea. It is really pitiful. Some of them are totally inadequate. They are out there unable, many of them, to handle underwater equipment properly and are putting their lives at risk and also those of men who are professionals."

The association wants to see a system of national diving schools offering "something like" the 15-week diving course entrants undergo at the diving school in Rosyth. But the new offshore oil safety regulations are largely inoperative, Mr Crichton-Todd said.

The rules, the Offshore (Diving Operations) Regulations, lay down strict safety and medical standards for all divers working on the 60 rigs and platforms operated by 12 oil companies working the British sector. Divers earn between £3,000 and £7,000 a year and about half of them are former Royal Navy or Royal Marines divers.

The regulations covered men

working from fixed platforms in waters on the British continental shelf but most deep diving work is being carried out from pipe-laying barges completely outside that area, Mr Crichton-Todd said.

"Divers are at risk because much of the work they do is in international waters. They work from foreign vessels, often flying flags of convenience, and if there is an accident there is often no redress," he continued. "In addition, many of them feel under pressure from the oil companies to go down when conditions are bad. The pressure can be intense when 20 to 30 men are all on a diving barge together in a rough North Sea. Some companies are good but the majority are ruthless."

Mr Richard Farrington, Wharfedale managing director of Comex Diving Ltd, of Great Yarmouth, the biggest diving contractor in the North Sea, said: "There is a risk and I can understand how the divers feel about the situation in the North Sea."

But they should refuse to dive. Barge operations are excluded from the regulations and 50 per cent of our operations are from barges. But we try to observe the spirit as well as the letter of the law."

Doctors blamed over birth-control failure

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

A number of family doctors refused to cooperate in a government experiment designed to bring birth control services to women most in need of them, a report shows today. Yet the doctors were much more likely to be in contact with women in social classes four and five than the specialist family planning services set up for the experiment.

The campaign, initiated by Sir Keith Joseph when Secretary of State for Social Services, was designed to saturate two towns with family planning services. The sum of £50,000 was spent on comprehensive services at Runcorn, Cheshire, and Coalville, Leicestershire. It succeeded in increasing the numbers of people using birth control services, but the people attracted to the services were mainly younger, childless and unmarried women and a growing proportion of women from the skilled manual class. It encouraged very few women from social classes four and five to attend clinics or approach their doctors for help, although both towns had more than the average number of such women.

Some doctors in the two towns were lukewarm partly because they regarded the association as an interloper and partly because they wanted to be paid for the service. Although the campaign was designed to provide both towns with comprehensive free family planning advice and supplies, some doctors continued to charge prescribing contraceptive pills.

Doctors who were enthusiastic and cooperative had a marked effect. One practice at Runcorn which already had a high level of family planning service people in social classes four and five, performed nearly vasectomies during the campaign.

The most striking failure in the provision of domiciliary services, which were dependent on the cooperation of doctors throughout the campaign, was in Runcorn. In April, 1972, September, 1973, only six were referred to the Coal-domiciliary service, and none in Runcorn.

Mrs Isobel Allen, author of the study, said yesterday the health visitors, who were attached to GP practices, were reluctant to refer when their own doctors were not co-operative.

Birth Control in Runcorn and Coalville: A Study of the Campaign by Isobel Allen. Broadsheet 340 (Research Publication Service, 11 Victoria Road, Fingal Street, London, SE10).

Conditions for divers said that 11 had died in the year.

Too many ministries: creation of a single authority to administer safety regulations for divers in the North Sea be jeopardized by "em-conscious" civil servants in Department of Energy, Mr Prescott, Labour MP for East, said in London yesterday.

They could try to delay efforts to get overall responsibility centralized by a safety commission under the aegis of the Department of Employment, Mr Prescott, a former and seaman, who entered Parliament in 1970, said such a commission could together the various safety inspection duties at fragmented and spread at three other ministries.

Yorkshire arts grant

Yorkshire Arts Association has granted £3,000 to the running York Arts Centre, another £500 if that is made by York District Council. Grants include £1,150 to literature festival and a national £610 to Calder festival.

The Christmas turkey has many guises

Turkeys are available in more guises than usual this year. This reflects the desperate ingenuity of producers who still have uncomfortably large stocks of frozen birds.

The latest variation is a cylinder of turkey meat, about five inches wide and 18 inches long, tightly wrapped in pork fat. It can be roasted like a joint of beef or lamb and sliced; weighs about 7lb, and costs about £4.

Beef will be a better buy than turkey this Christmas, but for those who cannot let the season pass without tasting the festive bird there are portions of turkey. They are about the size of a small escalope of veal and cost between 14p and 19p each.

One portion a person would make a useful evening succulent to a vast joint of beef at lunch on Christmas Day. Those who insist on a whole turkey will find a frozen bird. There are fewer fresh birds than usual, and the best ones will probably cost more than 50p a pound.

Most stores have fixed their Christmas prices for frozen birds, but some persist in guarding them like state secrets until a few days before Christmas.

Cater Brothers: Frozen, 29p a pound for all weights; fresh, a few available, not yet priced.

Co-operative societies: Frozen, 29p a pound for all weights.

Dewhurst: Frozen, 32p-34p a pound up to 14lb, then 29p a pound for 15lb, 35p to 38p, beef, 50p to 60p.

Food prices

Hugh Clayton

Five Fare: Frozen, 30p, whatever weight available; price may change before Christmas.

David Greig: Frozen, 28p for all weights.

International Stores: Frozen, 29p for all weights.

Keymarkets: Frozen, 28p for all weights; no fresh this year.

Liptons: Frozen, 27p from 6lb-18lb; some shops may have restricted range of weights.

Littlewoods: Frozen, 28p to 32p according to weight.

MacFisheries: Frozen, 31p up to 12lb, 29p up to 17lb; very few fresh available; at these prices a 13lb bird will cost only a little more than a 12-pounder.

Marks & Spencer: Frozen, available in some stores at 39p; fresh, 41p from December 21.

Selfway: not available.

Sainsbury: Frozen, 29p for all weights; fresh 38p.

Tesco: Frozen, six-pounders at 31p or 32p a pound, then 29p a pound for 14lb or more.

Waitrose: Frozen, 27p; self-basting, 30p.

Woolworth: Frozen, 28p a pound.

Chickens dear: The cheapest supermarket broiler chicken, according to the British Poultry Federation, costs 25p, while few cost less than 27p a pound, the rate for the cheapest frozen turkey.

Four out of five borstal trainees offend again

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Four out of five 16-year-old males discharged from borstal in 1970 were convicted again within two years, most of them within nine months, according to latest Prison Department statistics published yesterday.

Yet half of them were sent back to borstal when first convicted.

The figures illustrate the failure of borstal but the persistence, nevertheless, of belief in it.

Among borstal youths of all ages, 65.2 per cent were convicted again. The figure includes those returned to borstal for offences during supervision.

Sixteen-year-olds are the group most likely to be convicted within two years or charge from detention centre. Yet again courts place blame on the youths.

The reconviction rate for 16-year-old males from detention centres was 65.3 per cent total of 1,088 followed up two years after discharge. Report on the Work of the Prison Department, 1973. Stat Tables (Cmd 58.4, Stat Office, 63p).



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Action needed on racial issues, conciliators say

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

Generalized statements about equal opportunities for coloured minority groups of workers must increasingly be accompanied by action on specific issues, the East Midlands conciliation committee of the Race Relations Board said yesterday.

In its annual report, the committee indicated that these issues were formulation of policies on equal opportunities, their communication to everyone concerned, and effective monitoring of the policies to ensure their implementation.

The committee's work during the year was dominated by the allegations of unlawful discrimination at the Imperial Type-writer factory at Leicester, where there was a 14-week strike earlier this year. Of the 1,650 manual workers, 1,100 are Asian.

Yesterday's report continued: "Although the evidence we obtained did not support the allegations made by the strikers, the dispute showed that even where the employer is well intentioned, if minority group workers are under represented at supervisory levels and in the trade union workplace organization, they feel strongly that they lack equal opportunities. These feelings are increased where management and shop stewards have been reluctant to adopt formal equal-opportunity policies. What we have seen in the east Midlands is groups of minority group workers becoming increasingly alienated from the workplace, resulting in industrial relations difficulties."

Reporting on one of its 85 other investigations during the year, the committee mentioned a West Indian who was refused service in a Nottingham public house, ostensibly on the ground that he was not wearing a tie. Evidence showed that some white people in the bar at the time were not wearing ties. The committee formed an opinion that there had been unlawful discrimination and it was hoped that the matter would be resolved in the near future. It added: "We hear a good deal about the divisions of race relations but here was a case in which a number of white customers in the public house were so disturbed at the treatment given to the West Indian that they advised him to complain to the board and gave evidence on his behalf."



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BIRMINGHAM Australian Centre (Migration), Norfolk House, Smallbrook Queensway, BIRMINGHAM, B4 4EH. Tel: 643 9491-3

BRISTOL Australian Centre (Migration), College House, 32-33 College Green, BRISTOL, BS1 5SR. Tel: 20494-6

LEEDS Australian Centre (Migration), Cavendish House, 93 The Headrow, LEEDS, LS1 6QE. Tel: 36564

MANCHESTER Australian Centre (Migration), Gateway House, Piccadilly South, MANCHESTER, M1 3QL. Tel: 228 1344

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE Australian Centre (Migration), 4 Royal Arcade, Swan House, Pilgrim Street, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, NE1 6RE. Tel: 670 301

EDINBURGH Australian Centre (Migration), 4 Manover Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 2HQ. Tel: 226 6271-5

GLASGOW Australian Centre (Migration), 40 Jamaica Street, GLASGOW, G1 4QQ. Tel: 221 8266

BELFAST Australian Centre (Migration), River House, 42-46 High Street, BELFAST, BT1 2DT. Tel: 34185

WEST EUROPE

MPs in Luxembourg assert their new powers to change EEC budget for the first time

From George Clark, Political Correspondent, Luxembourg, Dec 12. With only one hitch, which obliged a clash between the socialist group and the other members of the European Parliament here today, the first time in the Community's history that the legislative power to change the EEC budget.

For the Parliament to overrule decisions of the Council of Ministers on propositions put forward by the Parliament at November meeting, a vote of at least 92 of the 198 members was required. The Irish Conservative MPs who travelled overnight to vote in the Commons got back in the nick of time and the first vote carried against the Council Ministers by 110 votes to 57, with one MP abstaining.

It was Mr Jens Møller, a representative of the Danish Socialist People's Party, who was thumped in the test when Mr Georges Spenale, leader of the Socialist group, announced that they would not vote with the rest of Parliament

in insisting on an amendment to the budget which would have allowed about £2,500,000 for social projects in the Third World to be undertaken with the help of private development aid organizations.

M Spenale's argument was that this sum should be kept in reserve because it might be needed for social purposes to the benefit of workers in the Community if the economic situation worsened.

For the Council of Ministers, M Christian Poncelet said that if the Parliament reserved the right to make a decision about the use of these reserves until a later date that was a political decision and the council would respect it. The Socialists cheered this declaration and the amendment to insist on the grant was lost because only 66 MPs voted for it, the Socialists and Communists abstaining.

Another amendment calling for a regional fund of at least £150m to be in operation by January 1 was not pressed after M Poncelet had given an assurance that the Council of Ministers would table a supplementary budget for this amount in

accordance with the summit agreement in Paris.

Other amendments were carried by votes of 107 and 109. One of these provided, against the wishes of the Council of Ministers, £600,000 for safety precautions at an atomic research station at Ispra, Italy, where there is a danger of people being harmed by radiation if urgent work is not undertaken.

At one point in the debate Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer, the President (or Speaker) of the House, had to appeal to MPs to remain in their places, otherwise the required quorum would not be obtained. The complete budget was eventually approved by a vote of 101, the Communists and Mr Møller abstaining. Tonight Herr Ludwig Fellermaier, vice-chairman of the Socialist group, issued a statement expressing the hope that when Ireland took over the presidency of the Council of Ministers from France next month, relations between the Council and Parliament would be improved.

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Diary, page 18

More 'free travel' road licences for Britain

From David Cross, Brussels, Dec 12. Transport companies in Britain and the other EEC member states will receive 20 per cent of Community road haulage licences next year under new arrangements approved by member governments in Brussels.

One of their regular meetings, the ministers of transport the nine agreed late last night to grant Britain an allocation of 272 of these permits, to enable lorries to travel throughout the Community without complicated border checks. By contrast, West German companies will be entitled to 27 licences, the French to 382 and the Dutch to 319.

F. Mulley, the British minister, originally had been asking for a 5 per cent increase in country's share and a small percentage for the six other member states. This was because Britain wanted to close the gap between the total allocated to the three recent members and the other four.

After some reluctance by West Germans to approve increases whatsoever, Mr Mulley settled for a 20 per cent increase as a compromise.

The knotty problem of lorry permits, which still divides the nine, was raised briefly by the nine. Britain, Ireland and Denmark made it clear that they still were not ready to raise to a maximum axle weight of 11 tons to replace their present limit of 10 tons.

On the satisfaction of the nine, the ministers agreed to continue to exempt the three newcomers from the Community system of maximum and minimum tariff rates for the carriage of goods by road between member states. The nine have not been applying a system of "bracket tariffs" because of the difficulty of setting prices for journeys which include sea crossings.

European Parliament may have senate

From Our Political Correspondent, Luxembourg, Dec 12.

Proposals for extending the powers of the European Parliament, now to be considered as a matter of urgency after the agreement reached at the Paris summit, are likely to include the establishment of a second Chamber, which will contain "senators" delegated by the national Parliaments.

This would remove the criticism that a directly elected Parliament would get out of touch with political opinion in the elected assemblies in the member states.

Mr Peter Kirk, the leader of the Conservative delegation in Luxembourg, today welcomed the firm decision of the Council of Ministers to encourage Parliament to put up a plan for direct elections by 1976. But he was worried by the linking of this proposition with the idea of increasing the powers of the Parliament simultaneously. This could lead to much argument about powers which, in turn, would hold up the direct elections.

Several members of the Conservative delegation, including Lord Bessborough, said they would support the idea of a second Chamber but the details would have to be discussed when the European Parliament debated the scheme drafted by Mr Schelte Fatijn, the Dutch Socialist, in January.

Mr Fatijn, as rapporteur for the political affairs committee, recommends a new elected Chamber of 550 members, made up of 24 from Belgium, 14 Denmark, 108 France, 128 Germany, 10 Ireland, 113 Italy, six Luxembourg, 31 The Netherlands and 116 United Kingdom.

MPs from the Irish Republic today also expressed support for a second, nominated Chamber which would act as a revising body and which would more closely reflect the views of national parliaments.

But it is recognized that, if the bicameral system is adopted, it will not be easy to accommodate the two legislative bodies.

Mr James Hill, a member of the British Conservative delegation, said today: "I think MPs here should accept more austerity."

A spokesman for the Socialist group said tonight that they would be opposed to a nominated second Chamber. "We would not accept any system where appointed members or people who are born into a place of privilege would have legislative power."

The Community should first get on with direct elections to Parliament. Later the Council of Ministers might evolve into a second Chamber, where all its deliberations and decisions would be open to the public view.

Extent of Basque strikes surprises Madrid

Sao Sebastián, Dec 12—

Factories, shops and schools reopened today in the Basque region after a one-day general strike which brought much of the area to a standstill.

Sources said that the Government had been surprised by the extent of the disruptions. The strikes and demonstrations had been called by underground trade unions and the Basque separatist movement, ETA, in support of demands for an amnesty for political prisoners.

The police detained more than 50 people, many of whom were released after questioning overnight.

A student, aged 22, was shot and wounded when the police opened fire to disperse the demonstrators in the village of Hernaoi. He was recovering in the provincial hospital in San Sebastián today.

More than 140 political prisoners in 11 jails are on hunger strike demanding an amnesty.—Reuters.

Portuguese Socialists meet legally at last

From Our Correspondent, Lisbon, Dec 12. Some 900 delegates of the Portuguese Socialist Party will meet for the next three days in the first legal congress since the 1976 revolution, to which 400 Portuguese and foreign observers have been invited. They include members of the Socialist International, the British Labour Party, various members of the European socialist and democratic parties and representatives of African leftwing and independent movements.

All the meetings of the congress tomorrow and on Saturday and Sunday will be public. Tomorrow after the formal opening of the congress, delegates will listen to a report by secretary-general, Dr Mario Soares, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Discussion of the social programme will be initiated Saturday and speeches have been limited to five minutes. Today a group of leading

party members published a document setting out their conception of the party's basic principles. It emphasises the party's affiliation to the Socialist International and indicates the party's rejection of the "Leninist inheritance". The members believe that the balance of wealth should be in favour of the workers and governing power should be entirely responsible to the community.

Speaking at a press conference today, Dr Soares said there was a group within the party which considered that there was no reason for the existence of different currents and that unity should be strengthened.

He added: "But we are open to all socialist currents which believe in socialism, in freedom, in socialism with a human face".

Our Foreign Staff writes: The mood of liberalism which followed the coup last April in Portugal had given way to wide-

spread disappointment and divisions. Senhor Antonio de Figueiredo, a writer on Portuguese affairs, said a (Chatham House) in London yesterday. Nations were singularly ungrateful and demanding, and large sectors of the urban population and the peasant class had either "retreated into alienation" or begun to voice opposition.

The new regime had given the highest priority to the needs of the working class, and in addition to restoring rights of association and strike, it had instituted a minimum wage and better working conditions; but in other fields the search for democracy had had some disturbing side effects.

The most disturbing feature of present Portuguese politics was the "calculated ambiguity" to the race for power, in which certain elements within the armed forces movement and political parties were involved.

Fifth jockey arrested in French betting case

From Richard Wigg, Paris, Dec 12. Police squads today were making investigations in the derelict world of Marseilles andulon over a betting scandal involving the Tiercé, the off-course betting system which is France's favourite gambling racket.

Last night a Paris investigating magistrate ordered the arrest of a fifth steeplechase jockey. The five under arrest, Pierre Costes, Jean-Louis Cira Vigna, Christian Dada, Jean-Pierre Renard and Jean-Pierre Philippot, have been charged with attempting to corrupt jockeys and violating French horse racing laws as cheats in a steeplechase run at Auteuil on December 9 last year. A well-known trainer is also arrested and lodged in

a Paris prison on similar charges.

This followed a year-long police investigation after the Auteuil racecourse authorities noted how several favourites in the race had run.

The course authorities found that 500,000 francs (£47,000) had been placed on outsiders who filled the first three places. None of the favourites, among them horses ridden by the five jockeys now charged, performed as expected. The police in their investigations studied films of the steeplechase.

The investigating magistrate is also questioning again a sixth jockey who was arrested and charged last September with threatening physical violence to a fellow jockey. It is now alleged that the man threatened had threatened to reveal approaches made to jockeys before they raced.

Opinion poll puts Denmark's Liberals in lead

From Our Correspondent, Copenhagen, Dec 12.

The Social Democratic Party, Denmark's biggest party for more than 40 years, has been forced back to second place, according to an opinion poll published here today. It said the Liberal Party, led by the Prime Minister, Mr Poul Hartling, was supported by 30 per cent of the voters. The Social Democrats were supported by 26 per cent.

Denmark is to have a general election on January 9, and the poll is the first since Mr Hartling dissolved the Folketing last week. Apart from the surge of support for Mr Hartling's party, it shows that the balance between Socialist and non-Socialist parties is unchanged at roughly 40 and 60 per cent respectively.

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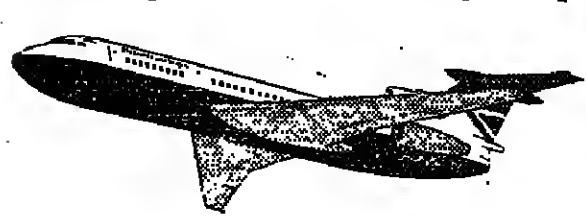
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Nato talks dominated by economic problems

From Roger Berthoud
Brussels, Dec 12

For once, economic problems like inflation and unemployment rather than East-West relations or the state of the alliance, dominated today's six-monthly meeting of the Nato Ministerial Council.

The broad conclusions, according to officials, were much the same as those of this week's EEC summit meeting in Paris: that restrictive and protectionist measures must be avoided; that those countries in a position to do so should reflate; and that there should be the maximum of cooperation.

Inevitably, the differences between the French and the Americans over energy were thrashed over again. It was generally agreed that the conference between consumers and producers desired by President Giscard d'Estaing should be well prepared by consultations between the main consumers.

Dr Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, again emphasized the importance of consumer solidarity. But some observers had the impression that he might be prepared to envisage a conference with the producers within six months.



Dr Kissinger greets Signor Rumor, the Italian Foreign Minister, before the Nato meeting.

Dr Kissinger and M Sauvagnargues, the French Foreign Minister, had breakfast together this morning in an attempt to prepare for this weekend's meeting in Martinique between President Ford and M Giscard.

In his contribution to the economics debate, Mr Callaghan, the British Foreign Secretary, said we were coming to the end of an era. People had been expecting to get richer and to improve their situation. But the world was approaching a situation at least as bad as in the 1930s. A way had to be found of making it clear that wealth would not increase.

Mr Callaghan appealed to his allies to avoid restrictionist policies, and saw the need to obtain the assent of the people to take the necessary steps to save the situation as it appeared to be developing.

One of the chief anxieties of the alliance is that weapons are becoming more expensive and complicated at a time when less money is available.

Dr Kissinger gave a report of President Ford's meeting in Vladivostok with Mr Brezhnev, and the resulting strategic arms limitation agreement. There was a brief discussion on the East-West talks on food production

in Vienna and on the Geneva conference on security and co-operation in Europe.

It was agreed that the forces reduction talks had made little progress in the past 13 months. The fear is that the Western position will be undermined by unilateral cuts by allies because of economic pressures.

The Geneva conference was considered to have made some progress, but not enough. Theoretically, the question of whether it will end with the summit meeting desired by Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist Party leader, remains to be decided on the basis of results.

Number of jobless up 60,000 in France

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Dec 12

France now has 689,200 officially registered unemployed. The November figure—60,000 up on October's total—was released by M Michel Durafour, the Minister of Labour, as the communist and socialist trade union confederations today called on French workers to "demonstrate in the defence of jobs".

After the lukewarm response given to last month's general strike call, the unions urged their members only to file petitions and stage short "token" stoppages, where the shopfloor demanded it, with meetings organized after factory hours.

M Durafour, speaking last night in the Senate, said young people seeking jobs for the first time had been particularly affected. The Minister criticized some employers for being over-cautious in recruiting.

The air raid sirens were sounded in Beirut about 4 pm and the all clear was given at 5.15 pm. During the raid, Beirut airport was closed to traffic and incoming aircraft were diverted to Damascus, while one Turkish airliner was turned back to Turkey.

A defence Ministry communiqué said four aircraft launched a raid on refugee camps, for seven minutes and were intercepted by Lebanese fighters and ground fire. A large column of water was seen as a heavy object splashed in the sea. The communiqué said it was believed to be one of the raiding aircraft.

The Waifa statement said the aircraft were intercepted by both guerrillas and Lebanese Army fire.

A report from the southern Lebanese town of Sidon said an Israeli aircraft bombed two fishing boats in the small port of Sarafand this afternoon but missed them. The boats returned safely ashore.

Later Mr Rashid Solh, the Prime Minister, told Parliament that one woman had been killed and 10 people were injured. Lebanon will lodge a complaint with the United Nations, he added, but did not say whether a Security Council session would be sought.

Moshe Brilliant writes from Tel Aviv: Israel police said today that a Palestinian had been killed and a woman injured in a car accident on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem road.

Israel aircraft attack Palestinian camp after cinema bombing

From Our Correspondent
Beirut, Dec 12

Four Israeli Phantoms this afternoon raided a Palestinian camp in a Beirut suburb. The raid followed a bomb attack last night by Palestinian guerrillas in a Tel Aviv cinema.

The Palestine news agency (Wafa) said the raid lasted 13 minutes and failed to record direct hits. One residential building was demolished and a number of civilians were injured, it said.

Other Palestinian sources said only two people were slightly injured. Eyewitness near the Shafila camp, which houses jured. Eyewitness near the Beirut airport said there was some confusion especially among children.

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today that a British passport in the possession of the Tel Aviv cinema bomber last night was definitely forged. The identity of the terrorist who was killed by one of his own grenades remains a mystery, but notes found in his possession indicated he belonged to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

The PFLP, a Marxist-Leninist group led by Dr George Habash, is one of the components of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Meanwhile, the Israel Air Force said today's air raid was on Palestinian installations used as training or operational bases by the PFLP.

One of the casualties of the cinema bombing was identified this afternoon as Robin Keith Burberry, aged 34, of Sussex, an engineer under contract with a local cannery. He was killed outright and his companion, Miss Sarah Shuckman, aged 28, died later from injuries.

The bomber entered Israel early yesterday morning with a passport in the name of Alexander Adam Hooper, born in Accra, Ghana, in 1948 and now a resident of Turkey. He came from the Far East. His passport showed he had travelled to Spain and Japan.

Commander David Ofer, chief of police in the Tel Aviv district, this afternoon showed reporters a blood-soaked elastic girdle about a foot wide found on the dead man. He said the grenades must have been tucked into the belt against the man's body. The terrorist jobbed two grenades amongst the spectators in a cinema balcony and a third went off apparently because the pin was released before he could throw it.

Commander Ofer said he had appointed a commission to inquire into possible security failures. Questions being asked include how the man was able to clear customs and security checks at Ben-Gurion airport with a suitcase with a false bottom containing plastic explosives and other bomb making material.

'No real progress' in talks on troop cuts

Vienna, Dec 12.—This year's negotiations on East-West troop cuts in central Europe ended today with no agreement in sight, delegates said. However, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato) and the Warsaw Pact countries said they would continue talks next year.

Mr Willem de Vos van Stijck of The Netherlands, Nato spokesman said: "We do not report real progress. And Mr Tadeusz Szulak of Poland, for the Warsaw Pact said: "No real progress has been made in the sense of concrete agreement."

The 19 nations taking part agreed to recess their meeting for a month and to reconvene in late January. The exact date will be fixed in direct negotiations by the governments concerned. Mr Szulak said his Nato counterparts said "The activity by both sides justifies the hope that we are moving into a stage of increased movements in the negotiations. We remain optimistic."

The Western allies seek to eliminate the communist's tactical superiority to tanks in central Europe, by maintaining their own advantage in tactical nuclear weapons. They have proposed reducing Nato and Warsaw Pact forces to 700,000 men each, starting with the two superpowers.

The communists aim at raising their present advantage in conventional forces, by reducing the West's nuclear strike force capability. According to the independent International Institute of Strategic Studies, the Warsaw Pact has 933,000 men, 13,500 tanks and 788,000 men.

6,880 tanks in central Europe. Washington, Dec 12.—United States Army announced today that a brigade of men will be moved to West Germany, beginning next March. American forces there are strong since 1957. The brigade will increase to a third of a division to four two thirds divisions.

Hopes of energy agreement at Giscard-Ford summit

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Dec 12

President Giscard d'Estaing left today for Guadeloupe, on the way to his meeting with President Ford at the weekend in Martinique.

Commentators agree that the meeting is crucial because the EEC Paris summit earlier this week showed once again that relations between Europe and the United States underlay all the Nine's discussions and their enduring differences.

The Martinique meeting is being preceded by the French President's official visit to the French West Indies.

Asked at Orly airport whether he had been given a mandate

to speak with Mr Ford in the name of the EEC, M Giscard d'Estaing replied: "The only mandate I can mention is that of coordinating economic policies."

"But I did not try to obtain a mandate on energy, for some of our standpoints are different. All our partners, however, have entrusted to me their desire to search with President Ford for solutions that would make it possible to hold a very well-prepared world conference on energy."

On Tuesday night, in his comments on the communiqué of the Paris summit M Giscard d'Estaing said: "I have noted in the American proposals an

advance towards the idea of a meeting between oil producers and consumers."

It is now clear that if the communiqué was so unproductive on the issue of energy, the reason was the desire of the Nine to avoid saying anything that would prevent the two Presidents from building on the common ground existing between France's insistence that oil consumers and producers should cooperate and the American insistence on setting up a common front of oil consumers first.

The Elysée spokesman emphasized that there was "no incompatibility" between the two standpoints. It was merely a case of "finding a time table acceptable to both parties."

According to sources, the preparatory work between the two governments on the Martinique summit indicates that the problem is virtually solved. The compromise that is expected to be reached, barring a last minute hitch, would involve a preparatory conference of experts representing producers, consumers, and developing countries early next year; a conference of consumer countries to work out a common position; and the tripartite conference suggested by M Giscard d'Estaing at his press conference in October.

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Two jailed for club blast

Berlin, Dec 12.—Willi Rother, aged 31, and Verena Becker, aged 22, were jailed for eight and six years by a West Berlin court today.

They were found guilty of causing an explosion in the British yacht club and causing the death of a German club employee on February 2, 1972.

Syrian Air Force now superior to Egypt as Russians shift military power balance

By Our Foreign Staff

The Syrian Air Force is now "bigger and better than the Egyptian Air Force", according to Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Mr Rabin gave this assessment last night in an interview on the Thames Television programme *People and Politics*. He said both Syria and Iraq had deliberately built up their military powers since the October War, by the Soviet Union, in order "to build a substitute to Egypt, if not in the overall political interpretation, at least from the military interpretation vis-à-vis Israel."

This meant that there was now a possibility of war being initiated without Egypt "by Syria or by the combination of Syria and Iraq and the so-called PLO."

Mr Rabin said he still be-

lieved the Palestinian issue "can and should be solved in the context of negotiations between Israel and Jordan". Prospects for movement towards peace had been reduced by the Arab summit in Rabat, but "still there is a possibility that the Arab world will realize that Israel will not negotiate with the PLO".

In a year or two the Arab world would realize "that their decision will bring the opposite of what they want. That the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will become more Israeli than they would have been had they decided that Jordan would continue to be the partner for negotiations."

Mr Rabin said he hoped a "second stage agreement" with Egypt was now possible, but it was out of the question that Israel should go back to her 1967 border with Egypt "in the context even of a peace treaty

which has not been tested in certain period."

Beirut, Dec 12.—The Shu Iran said in an interview today that another Israel war would involve Muslim countries and not the Arab states.

Discussing with the Sha prospects of another war, editor and publisher of the weekly *Al Hareed* said: "Will the war include the Arab Muslim countries? The Shah replied: 'Certainly. It will be our war. None of us has a chance. Iran is a non-Arab, Muslim country.'

"Israel has only two alternatives before it—either accept implementation of UN resolutions through Geneva conference or any way, or there is no alternative to war."—UPI.

Solzhenitsyn hopes of a return to Russia

Stockholm, Dec 12.—Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the exiled Soviet writer and Nobel prize winner, said today that he lives with the continuous feeling and hope "that I must return to Russia one day".

Speaking at a news conference lasting four hours in Stockholm's Grand Hotel, he disclosed that since his banishment from the Soviet Union in February, the Justice Ministry had hinted that he might be allowed to return.

"If Solzhenitsyn asked to return, they foresaw no difficulties", the author said, adding: "These kind of statements cause perplexity in the West. Every Soviet minister will fabricate a lie."

"If they are serious about my return, let them publish my books and I will return."

Speaking on religion, Mr Solzhenitsyn said: "For the East, but also for the West, there is a crisis, except moral and religious awakening."

Soon after Mr Solzhenitsyn began his news conference, a rolled-up film screen in the hotel's mirror hall suddenly unfurled from the ceiling and its thick wooden base almost hit the author on the head.

Referring again to the question of moral revolution, he said: "As for my own country, let's not live with lies. If this method catches on, we will gradually change the situation."

The use of physical revolution should stop throughout the world, since this method had never solved problems.—UPI.

Angry farmers drive their cattle to Washington

From Fred Emery
Washington, Dec 12

Protesting South Dakota farmers today brought 47 head of beef cattle into the heart of Washington penning them outside the Agriculture Department. They challenged Mr Earl Butz, the Secretary of Agriculture, to try to make a profit by fattening them for market at current feed grain prices.

Mr Butz declined the offer, invoking a law prohibiting gifts. He did receive a deputation, however, and announced that everybody was suffering from the "monster" of inflation.

The farmers expressed satisfaction that they made progress with their demand a Government investigation "anti-competitive practices" meat marketing.

They were joined by summer organization representatives who wanted to know both the customers and theducers were losing. A sign one of the pens asserted the 19-month-old, 1,050 lb bad cost \$619 (about £27 raise and brought \$367.50 a farmer, but would cost sumers \$63 at the meat counter.

American jets must have warning device

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Dec 12

A device called a "ground proximity warning system" will be obligatory equipment in American jet airliners next year, the Federal Aviation Administration has announced.

The device can be installed much sooner than originally estimated, according to Mr Alexander Buterfield, the FAA administrator. Congress had insisted on the device after the recent Trans World Airlines crash.

The new system will give visual and sound warnings to pilots to climb as soon as they fly below the safe operating height.

State governor set to join nomination race

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Dec 12

Mr Jimmy Carter, the going Democratic Governor of Georgia, was set to announce today that he is running for his party's presidential nomination in 1976.

He would be the second among the predicted 21 challengers to make his campaign official.

Mr Carter, aged 50, is a nut farmer and one of the mid-sixties mode who gave rise to the term "New South", implying a accommodation and economic development.

Banned Yugoslav author to be tried

From Dassa Trevisan
Belgrade, Dec 12

Mr Mihajlo Mihajlov, the author of critical essays on communism, is to face trial on charges of hostile propaganda against the state.

The public prosecutor in Novi Sad, where Mr Mihajlov was arrested two months ago, alleges that in four articles published in a Russian émigré periodical, he gave a distorted picture of trends and events in Yugoslavia.

The trial had been set for next Thursday, but Mr Barovic, the author's counsel, asked for a postponement until next month to prepare the defence.

Article 118 of the penal code

under which Mr Mihajlov is charged provides for a prison term from one to 15 years.

In 1966 Mr Mihajlov was sentenced to one year in jail and in 1967 to three and a half years, also on charges of hostile propaganda. He left prison in 1970. He was also banned by the court from publishing for four years. To earn his livelihood he was, therefore, contributing to foreign publications.

He was offered a post as a lecturer in Russian literature by various Western universities, but all his attempts to get an exit visa failed. Last year he wrote to President Tito asking for either a job in Yugoslavia or a passport to go abroad. He

was promised a job in an institute for literary research, but never materialized.

The fact that he has published abroad, before the expired, is now being taken as an aggravating circumstance.

The four articles quoted in the indictment were published in American newspapers, literary magazines and later reprinted in the Russian émigré journal *Posev*, published in West Germany. The prosecution contends that Mr Mihajlov was contributing to the Russian émigré press. This may indicate that the case is based on what Mr Mihajlov wrote but where it was published.

I gave up my comic money for a month! But it wasn't easy.."

Tom Gifford, Kensington, London.

I gave
up my comic money
for a month!

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OVERSEAS

Turkish Premier consults party leaders on foreign policy after suspension of US arms aid

Our Correspondent
Istanbul, Dec 12
Mr. Sadi Irmak, the acting Minister of Turkey, today held a series of conferences with party leaders to discuss foreign policy in the light of the United States decision to suspend military aid to Turkey.

The Turkish press today criticized the suspension of American military aid. The mass circulation newspaper *Hurriyet* said Turkey should now move to set up its own war industry and, in the meantime, look for other sources for purchasing weapons.

Mr. Callaghan, the British Foreign Secretary, today had a talk with Mr. Eusebi, the Turkish Foreign Minister, on Cyprus. Later he met Mr. Bissios, the Greek Foreign Minister.

Rhodesian moves welcomed in Africa

Our Correspondent
Johannesburg, Dec 12
Mr. Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, who is President Kaunda of Zambia is credited with being the prime mover behind Rhodesia's three-point agreement with the African nationalists, is being urged to put his own stamp on the deal.

China joins in 'tyranny' dispute at the UN

From New York
New York, Dec 12
China last night joined in the counter attack of the developing countries against criticism by the Americans and West Europeans of this year's General Assembly.

Mr. Huang Hua, the Chinese representative, said the United Nations had long suffered from the "tyranny of the minority, that is, the one or two super powers."

Kurds say Iraqis use phosphorus shells

By Edward Mortimer
An 18-year-old Kurdish soldier is being treated in a London hospital for severe burns, believed to have been caused by a phosphorus shell.

President Ford's new chief of staff hopes to reverse past pattern of too much promise, too few results

From Fred Emery
Washington, Dec 12
In the face of new criticism that often borders on painful ridicule, President Ford last night stood his ground and modestly but firmly announced he would not be rushed.



Mr. Donald Rumsfeld: "You lead by consent."

west wing Roosevelt Room the other day, Mr. Rumsfeld insisted that the President and his closest advisers were indeed aware of the problems, as well as the ridicule in the air.

Mr Whitlam seeks British curb on envoys

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, Dec 12
Mr. Gough Whitlam, the Prime Minister, leaves Australia this Saturday on an extensive overseas tour which will last five weeks and take him to 14 countries.

Chinese change catalogue in US exhibition

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Dec 12
The Nationalist Chinese, the South Koreans, the Israelis and the South Africans got their chance to visit the Chinese exhibition today with many hundreds of other people.

Ir Smith's address to the people of Rhodesia

Harare, Dec 12.—Follows the text of his address to the nation last night by Mr. Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister.

There have recently been a number of moves behind the scenes in South Africa. These moves have been directed at bringing about a confrontation in southern Africa and substituting in its stead conditions in which the fallacies and misconceptions in this line of thinking can be readily exposed, but this is not the occasion for me to enlarge on these differences. Let me assure you, however, that there is no possibility whatever of a similar train of events occurring here in Rhodesia.

There are two further words of warning which I believe are appropriate this evening. Firstly, although I have accepted in complete good faith the undertaking that acts of terrorism will cease immediately, it may take some time for this to be fully effective. People in the affected areas should therefore continue to take appropriate precautions.

Secondly, this announcement does not mean that a settlement has been achieved, and it certainly does not mean that sanctions are about to be lifted. On the contrary, it is of the greatest importance that in the coming months the security of commercial information should be carefully safeguarded. On similar occasions in the past, when settlement expectations have arisen, our economic effort has been prejudiced because of complacency and carelessness.

Finally, I call upon all Rhodesians of all races to accept the new situation in our country, to put behind us the differences and the recriminations of the past and to look to the future.

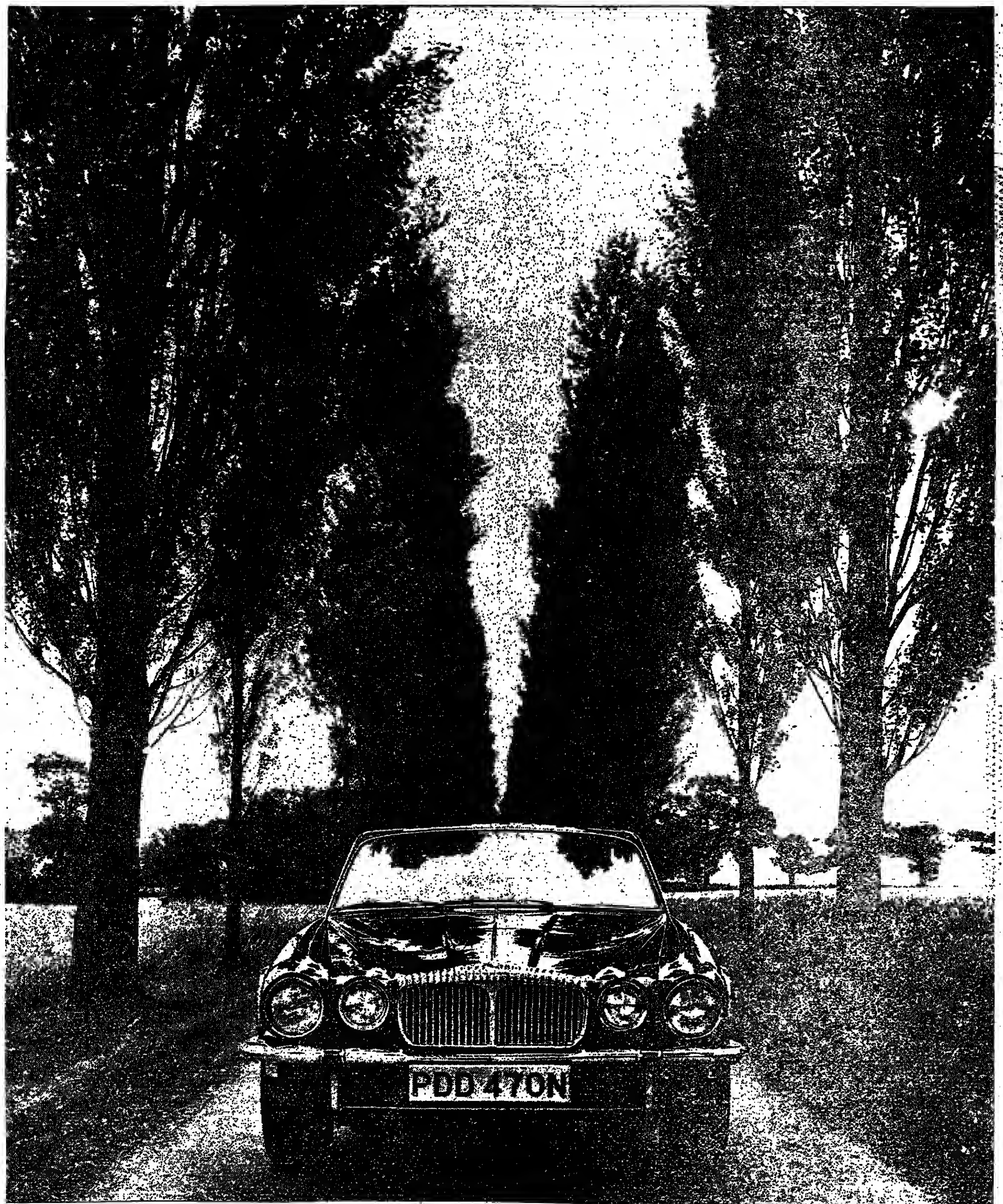
I ask you to go out of your way to help create conditions of harmony and peace. We live in a world in which many countries are beset by famine and by internal strife.

By contrast we have more than enough food for our own requirements and we are in a position to help alleviate misery and starvation elsewhere. Furthermore, our own internal race relations, despite current problems, are easier and more relaxed than in most countries which have different racial communities.

Let us build on this foundation. Let us all do our best to establish a climate of mutual respect in which constitutional matters can be discussed calmly and objectively in the hope that we shall be able to reach a settlement which will be in the best interests of all Rhodesians.

I make this appeal to you, believing that while this may turn out to be the first step towards a settlement, the major task will lie ahead with many complex problems which will tax our ability, our patience and our strength. It will take the best of our well-known Rhodesian spirit and courage if we are to win through. In the light of our past history, I do not believe that we shall be found wanting in this regard.

Ruiter.



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Daimler

THE ARTS

ASSON
Lasson Gallery
2-84 Jermyn Street
London SW1
01-629 6981

Valentino Award

Today in Rome Stanley Baker will receive the Rudolf Valentino Award for outstanding contributions to the film industry over the past 20 years.

Stanley Baker is in Spain where he has just completed filming *The Mark of Zorro* and is now making *Pepito Jimenez* with Sarah Miles. He is expected to return to London at the end of January.

Aida is a sumptuous sing for a chorus and a thrilling play for an orchestra—during the Triumph Scene and a few times else. But chiefly it is about more intimate political and personal interplay (as the excellent unspectacular current Welsh National production reminds us). Lanceford Roberts Radames in both casts, was in duty bound to sing a handsomely "Celeste Aida" and be did: it remained impressive, not subtle, but a pleasure to bear and watch, until the end of a long role. The Ramfis in this cast John Rath, was vocally his

Bangkok. Richard Hickox, who conducted, often seemed an accompanist inattentive to his singers, doggedly sustaining tempi in order for their vocal powers (and sometimes, the music's needs). He got a firm, resonant sound from his student orchestra and held the big ensembles together as firmly as his reputation had led one to expect. No doubt this *Aida* will surface again somewhere: it would be wasteful to let something, actually as well as potentially, so admirable, vanish after only four performances. I would love to see it again.

Stanley Sadie
The Concertgebouw Piano Quartet, an accomplished ensemble from the Netherlands, offered an unusually enterprising programme on their London debut on Wednesday: two contemporary works, one rarely and one piece of standard fare. They were bold to open with a quartet, written for them only last year, by a Dutch composer Henk Badings: bold particularly because it starts so unpromisingly, with a Lento movement, full of devices like barmodies.

a good deal more arresting; and a graceful movement at whose high point the music flows into intense roudales for the violin, densely built from morivic material and supported by rich textures. The effect is passionate, almost exotic. The finale again seems to fall back heavily on device, like left-hand pizzicato strumming and bowing bows (both of which are not the normal way up); at the end it partakes, not altogether convincingly, of a folkly pentatonic flavour. The work holds together well enough, once past the opening on-movement, but the sounds too much like invented

Mahler's quartet movement, written when he was 16, had its second South Bank outing within four days; these Dutch players did it rather superbly. I thought, without much youthful exuberance, and they let it sag into the rhythmically square passages. The music is often Brahmsian, and surprisingly dense in its use of motif although the motif is never harnessed to propel the music forward. Finally real Brahms, the C minor quartet: a slightly under-characterized reading.

and intensity and inwardness, and missing some significant points; but it was assured and smooth, and not without vitality.

control and was really enjoying himself. But it was said he used the score : in this kind of music it inevitably stands between player and audience.

Deputizing at short notice for Bernhard Klee, Edward Downes began with Tchaikovsky's rarely heard *Op. 18* Overture, and instead of the promised cantata tenary tributes to Ives. He himself said the measure of it: the orchestral playing sounded ready but rough. Brahms's first symphony after the interval was more from a totally different group, more than, so much more mellow, was the tone and rounded the phrasing.

and other Spanish trifles from the turn of the sixteenth century.

After drinks and coffee was speed back over the Tincture watershed; the eminent fifteenth-century theorist asserted that nothing much before Dufay was worth listening to, past the Burgundian court of Philip the Good and the Papal Schism in the ubiquitous feudal art of the troubadours.

To sustain such a varied programme with only four players and a singer requires showmanship as well as musicianship. Dufay, Murrow and friends have both in ready supply. The occasional presence of a vocal ensemble would have provided a welcome change of perspective

page are reprinted from *Notes*

The other modern piece, a quartet written in 1956 by also Viozki, is slighly but is also more like live music: cheer-
wrong notes. But fortissmo never lacked strength, and there was bigly strong tension in his rhythm. His luminous soft tone was a delight in second subject territory, and also in delicate accompanying figuration. The central movement brought pleasures both lyrical and mercurial, but the orchestra was often too loud, and not always ready for his daring impulse.

The finale's main theme was piquantly accented, tempo changes were finely integrated, and acceptance of the tempo assault on the octaves before the coda Mr Curzon suggested that he had nervousness under

and intensity and inwardness, and missing some significant points; but it was assured and smooth, and not without vitality.

control and was really enjoying himself. But it was said he used the score : in this kind of music it inevitably stands between player and audience.

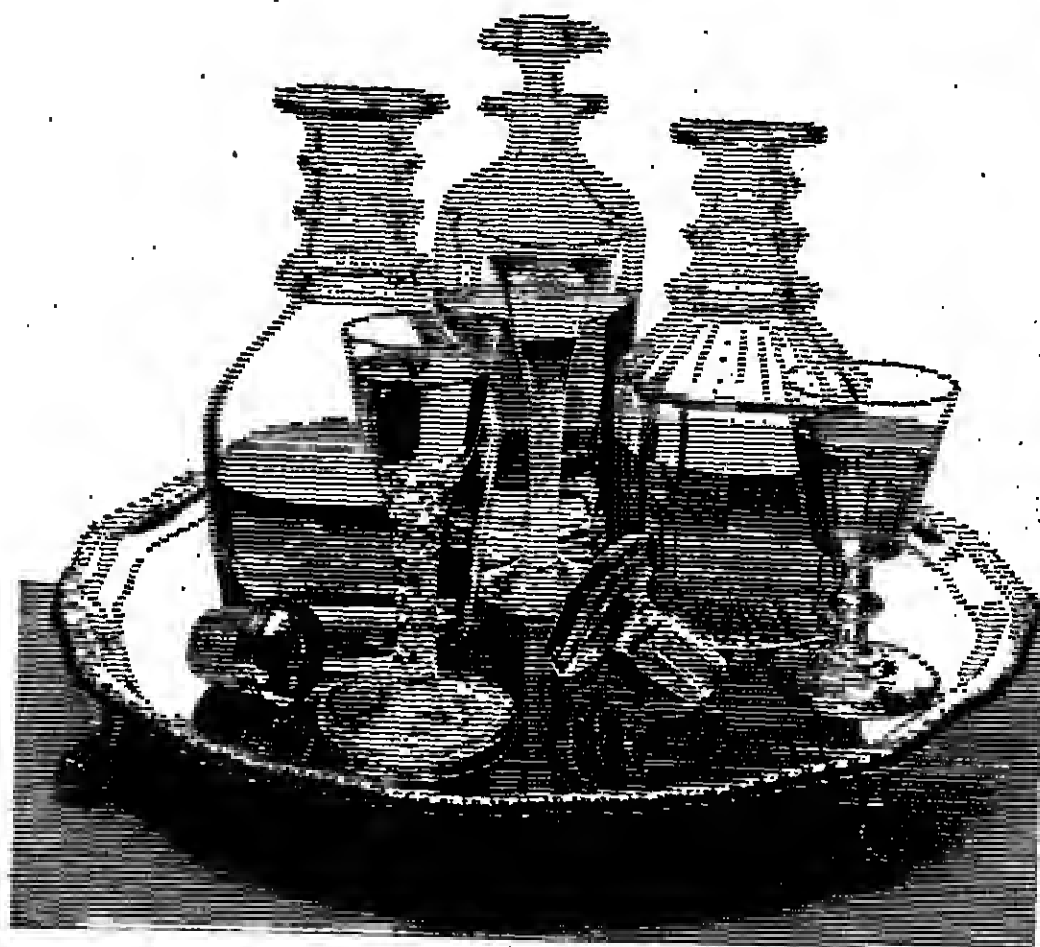
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1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 1601 UV-Visible Spectrophotometer. The concentration of chlorophylls was expressed in $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$.

How to Splurge on Christmas Luxuries Without Going Crackers or Bust

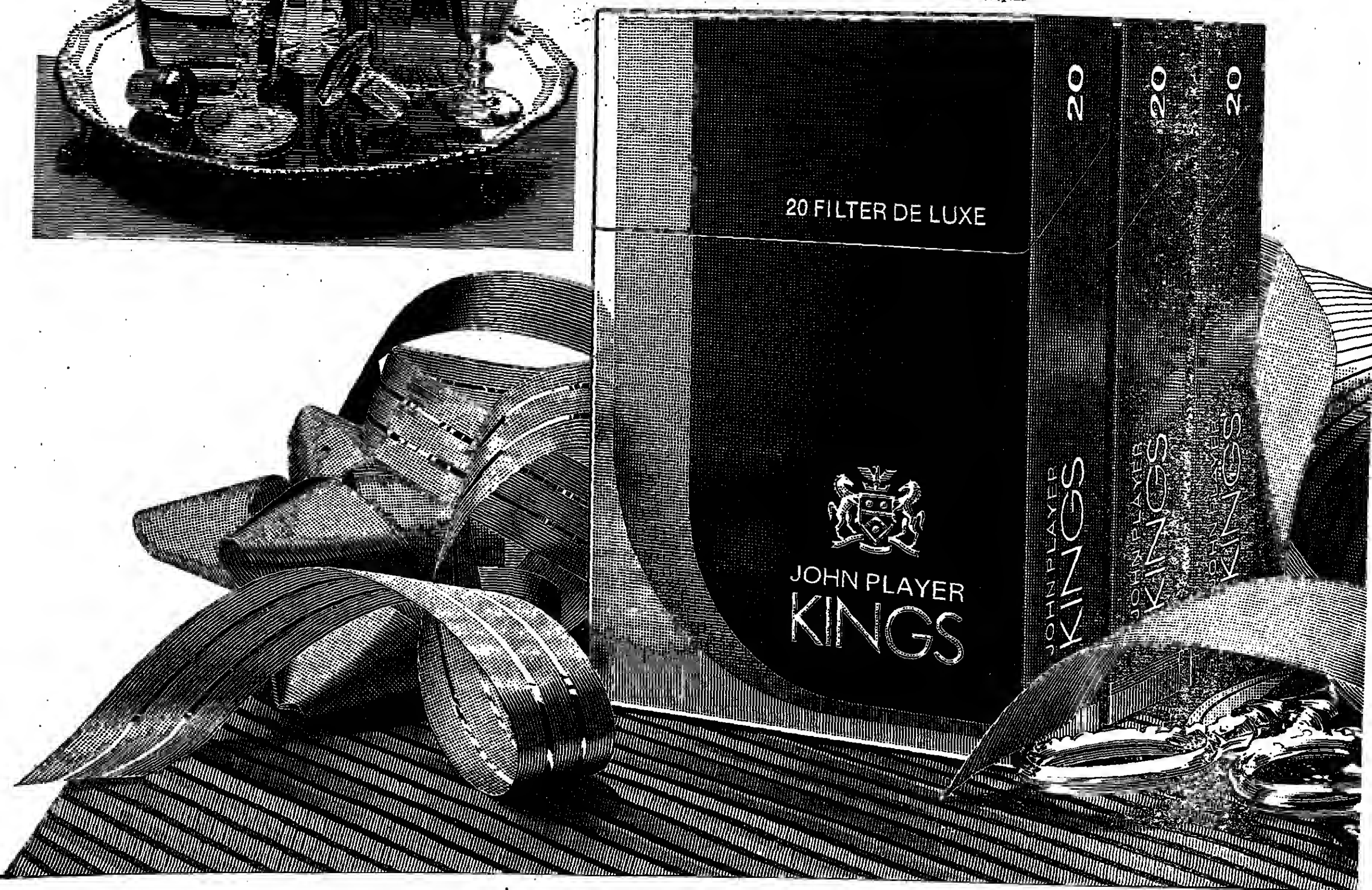
1. Spend Christmas week on Easter Island. Getting there could be expensive. But, once you've arrived, a ten-course, roast-suckling-pig dinner might cost you a bucket-full of mollusc shells, service not included.

2. Brew your own Christmas Spirit. As long as it's Burdock, Cherry or Plum, you can forget the legality, enjoy the frugality and freely dispense the frivolity.



3. Wrap up some John Player Kings. They're specially made to give you (and your friends) all the good taste and quality expected from a luxury cigarette.

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A Taste of Christmas Luxury at 34p for Twenty
Recommended price



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EVERY PACKET CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING

Test and County Cricket
 prospects for distribution to
 in 1974 were down to
 £100, a drop of £135,000, the
 meaning of the board was
 that the county cricket finan-
 cial drop was due in the
 to a fall in Test receipts
 if by bad weather," said
 Lush, a former England
 officer. "Counties are
 concerned about their fin-
 and ways and means are
 essential to improve the
 "He added, "I think
 today's financial statement
 is a cause for concern, not
 that Test match will get
 less from the Board than in
 previous year. But I hope it
 will be a factor in the
 of the future."

Donald Carr, who said
 have a fine future list next
 year and can get further
 get pushed back to the
 of 1972 and 1973.

He said the financial position
 of the county cricket board
 season. The Test match fee
 up to £180 from £160 and
 the county cricket board
 of £150. As reported pre-
 the Gillette and Benson and
 companies have signed new
 contracts with the board, but
 has not yet completed nego-
 tials with John Player, sponsors
 of county cricket, and Rea-
 gan and Hedges price
 has been increased for next
 and the winning team will
 £200, an increase of £50.
 The county cricket board
 tionism to improve the
 rate of the England team.
 were told that last year it

whose rate was £7.47, and 15.06
 against Pakistan £12.44.

Carr said: "Our rate is slower
 than any other country's, although
 some of the others are not much
 better. It is difficult to say a system
 of fines such as the county
 cricket will be introduced, because
 it could be one-sided, but we are
 determined to take some action."

The Board of Control
 tions to counties to speed up pay-
 by every possible means and avoid
 being delayed by the weather.
 will be told not to wait for the
 before returning to their
 market, batsmen must cut out
 lethargy and show more profes-
 sionism and rapids set their field as
 speedily as possible.

He said the Board was looking at close
 point—"the Tony Greig po-
 sition"—has been banned in county
 cricket. From now on no field-
 tery will be allowed on ground
 on the 10-foot wide cut area of
 the pitch. It is hoped that the
 fielders will agree to play
 under this rule in next year's Test
 matches.

Other decisions were
 1. The Test match at Edgbaston,
 Old Trafford, and Trent Bridge
 will go on a rota for staging the
 first Test of the summer from
 1974.

2. "Pensions": Players' non-contribu-
 tory scheme will be introduced
 from January 1, 1975.

3. "Extra time in Test matches":
 Play will continue for an extra
 hour only if it is in progress at
 the end of the day.

4. "Boundaries": Counties should
 make these as long as possible to
 encourage the use of 40 yards.

5. "Laws": Experiment with rule
 43, limiting non-fielders to five
 have been abandoned. In future
 they will be allowed to play in
 league except that there must be
 no more than two fielders behind
 the wicket.

6. "The international hit wicket":
 The Board will be asked to
 consider the possibility of
 introducing a hit wicket in
 international cricket.

7. "The Test match": The Board
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69. "The Test match": The Board
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Deli, Dec. 12.—West Indies, at one end a run of 70 minutes, took a commanding lead of six over India with three nines wickets standing on day of the second Test odd. Vivian Richards made it out as West Indies swept all before them. The reply is 220 all out. After tea tomorrow, India will be giving a rearguard action to bring two down in the five-
wicket Richards' first Test y, it was a belligerent 71 in out by the West Indian 1 Lloyd which dictated the rest of the game. India broke the stronghold of dian spin bowlers in the time Lloyd came in, India scored 255 runs in 68 minutes. The first Indian spin attack of Bedi, Nair and Venkataraghavan was the sword with a vengeance. Lloyd's departure, Julien Hunte's injury and the rain (it) showed on 330 minutes, West Indies scored 374 for loss of six wickets. But, soon morning tea, the sun was shining.
Kallicharras and the nightwatchman Wilton were untroubled by the medium-pace of Abid Ali and Solkar. Their difficulties began when Bedi was brought on after 20 minutes. Prasanna joined him and the pair bowled extremely Greenidge, who had looked quite confident, was caught at the wicket for 31 as he tried to cut. Then, after a brief interval, arm holder, presented a dead bat all the bowling and resisted for 90 minutes before Prasanna beat his forward stroke and howled him home.

Kallicharras was constantly worried by Bedi's flight and accuracy and might have been more than once. The hour before luncheon brought a meagre 34 runs off 23 overs. None of the batsmen was prepared to use his feet against the fast bowler. Then Kallicharran and Richards on a very tight rein. Just when Kallicharran seemed to be finding his real form he was cut off by a real India bowler, 125 for 1. West Indies were once too securely placed. But Lloyd showed his aggressive intentions from the start, although he was hit by a couple of balls from Redi and saw the ball pop up

behind the wicket. Richards took no drives off Bedi and the 22-year-old Andhra Pradesh bowler has over six sixes.

On the next over, Bedi over his head found the run riot was on. The for the fifth wicket fell. Richards and the h reached in a further

Test scorecard

INDIA: First innings, 220
54; A. M. E. Roberts 5

WEST INDIES: First
Prasanna 100, C. G. Hunte 71,

A. L. Wilkins, Prasanna
A. L. Wilkins, Prasanna

V. A. Richardson 100, C. G. Hunte 71,

C. G. Hunte 71, W. D. Malpas 100,

R. Venkatraghavan 100,
N. Venkatraghavan 100,

N. Venkatraghavan 100,
R. Venkatraghavan 100,

Extras 10 2)

Total 107 wickets:

FALL OF 7 WICKETS:
7-52, 8-132, 9-132, 10-132,

BOWLING 10 DELTA:

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Ministro de Mesquita estimated \$15m was spent by the industry on sports sponsorship during the last year. Of this, 42 major companies, sending approximately two-thirds of that figure, who merited an investigation by the Central Bank for possible tax evasion. The problems faced by the industry in the light of an estimate by the CCFR that there will be a 50 per cent turnaround in sponsorship in 1979.

Minister for Sport was also conference and made several proposals to Government and the Sports Council, to encourage athletes to gain compensation for loss of earnings and out-of-pocket expenses. It is also intended to encourage athletes, both at home and abroad, to enable our athletes to gain experience in the right conditions and to encourage the best possible training facilities.

British Olympic Association was encouraged by the Minister to widen their base of support, so that where necessary, in the past, raised money than was absolutely necessary to send each successful athlete to the Olympics. The Association must raise enough to cover the expenses of the next team over a year period.

The main object of the conference was to convince sponsors that, if necessary, should be fully appraised so that they could be convinced that where necessary, should not be too hard, in the view of Peter Lawson, general secretary of the CCFR, to convince a little more in recent years, but with the current economic situation, sponsors to be convinced. Lawson have felt "a bit of grapes" as he put it yesterday's meeting was seen as an attempt to convince sponsors to support sports and to provide support.

for racing

John Blunsden while some formula one teams to receive reduced financial aid in 1975, the Brabham Racing Organization have secured the major sponsor for the first time, the team's 13-year involvement in Grand Prix racing.

Under a two-year agreement concluded with Martini and Rossi, Rolf Reutemann, of Argentina, driver of three world championship titles in 1970, 1971 and 1972, will race for a year and his allyman teammate, Carlos Pace, will leave at their disposal a total of five Martini Brabhams, two of which will be at 15 championship races, the other two to be held back as a test-and-development car and as a back-up spare.

Two new cars are being built with two new drivers, in Italy, and three existing cars are being brought up to 1975 specifications.

By Neil Allen

Boxing correspondent

British light-middle-weight champion, Maurice Hope, has been nominated by the British Boxing Board of Control to meet Rungtornchai Worwong, a vacant Thai middle-weight title.

Sterling came from Jamaica to live here and Hope from Antigua in the West Indies. Both their 10 years residential qualifications to box for a British title. But this will not be, as has been assumed, a two-way championship between two immigrants. In November, 1973, Des Morrison from Jamaica won the British light-middle-weight title in London for the light-weight-welterweight title.

The British lightweight title left vacant by Morrison's departure to Edinburgh, who defends his European championship against Leonard Tavarez of France, in Paris next month. It will be decided between two other Scots, Jim Watt and Johnny Cheshire, at the Albany Hotel, Glasgow, on November 10. Jim Watt, who is a native of Glasgow, has been nominated twice by

John Connel, the world lightweight boxing champion, has decided to relinquish his British title to his manager, George Francis, last night. Maxie Smith, aged 31, a former Marine from Stockton, had been nominated to meet Connel for the title. Mr Francis said: "It is a sad decision. It is the only one which would come to him in the circumstances."

Smith may now be matched with the former champion, Charlie Fitzgibbon, for the British welterweight title. Mr Francis said that Connel did not want to part with the British title because it meant he would not be able to get a licence which would enable him to fight in his own country. "He made it his own property." "I shall request the Board of Control to make a present of the belt to John for his services to his world title," Mr Francis said.

The clerical promoter, Jack Saunders, has certainly not lost his old swashbuckling showmanship. The official signing for the long awaited British light championship, between Danny McEldine and Eusney Johnson (another Jamaican) will be held at the Grosvenor in London, the World Sporting Club on January 13, will be staged at the House of Commons next week.

The cause of the annual meeting seems to be the presentation of a cassette of speeches made by the Prime Minister and Edward Heath, to the President of the dinner to honour the birthday of David Shawell. I am not sure that this is what Johnson had in mind when he said that he would be ignored weighing in ceremonies in some dingy room "but the young man from Kingston would be the only one to order to become a welder and then a boxer, is sure to enjoy his visit to the Mother of

Cootch was committed to a contest at the Albert Hall on January 21. Mr Francis explained, and would also have to defend his world title by the end of March. "We would have been prepared to defend the British title after that, but it would not be fair to keep someone waiting about for so long. We think this is fair for both sides." Other members of the British championship were "stagnant and I believe in stopping boxing going."

In nominating Smith, the Board of Control were undoubtedly anxious to give Cootch an opportunity of relinquishing his British title. For, if Cootch had gone on with the contest, his world title would automatically have been forfeited. It is possible that he may have been asked to relinquish his title, but this is the sort of purse that Cootch can command as world champion.

By John Blumstein

The mood of economic consciousness in motor racing is gathering strength all the way. While the Commission Sportive Internationale are debating whether to restrict the fuel capacity of formula one cars the Automobile Club de l'Ouest, organizers of the Le Mans 24-hour race, have announced that they will also place the "austerity" clause on the agenda of economy.

Every car will be required to cover 20 laps of the 8.4-mile circuit between refueling stops, which will mean that the fastest drivers will have to achieve a reduction in fuel consumption of up to 25 per cent. Compared to the 100 gallons of fuel that A.C. cars at Le Mans are restricted in fuel capacity according to their engine size, which means that the potential out-

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

Perth, Western Australia, Dec 12

Only three days after arriving in Perth, I was in the night that took 42 hours. Colin Cowdrey will definitely play in the first Test match, starting here tomorrow. He is one of 12 players from Wingham England will choose their team, a selection committee will be set up by the committee as by the medical staff.

If the 17 cricketers now in the party, Armit, Eddies, Lever and Hendry will be ruled out by illness or injury. Taylor, the reserve wicketkeeper, is the only one out in the 12 who is fit. Willis is out because he is badly strapped before playing, having strained it in Brisbane. The last two, Hendry and Armit, will just a chance that both will play and Timmus will stand down. This will depend upon the look of the pitch and the weather in the morning.

Today, with the temperature, 75 degrees, even the cold water has been running warm. It has been much the hottest day of the season. The weather forecast, Cawdrey has had new more nets, to everyone else's one. He has now had six in three days. The weather is now clearing, ranging from schoolboys to such old soldiers as Tony Lock, who, after all, bowled well on Wednesday afternoon.

That was Cowdrey's view, anyway. Lock's view of Cowdrey was equally complimentary. "You know, I don't think I've ever seen a better bowler than you there, Lucky," was one of the

It was his "considered" opinion that the "best" place to put the goalposts and still is, a barn door, not a gate. Cowdrey could have done no more than he has to cram months' practice into three days.

His position in the order was fluid. It could be number four if England bat first and get away with a lead of 100 runs, but if he should just have had two days in the field. The idea of putting Retherly up to number three is a possibility, but though he is always happier at five.

The last time on tour that England had to take the field with the only players well enough to post a score was in 1964, curiously enough, just before Cowdrey being sent for as a reinforcement. Soon after the start, Jim Parks had to take to his bed with a fever. Cowdrey was almost the entire match with 10 men. Had Parks fallen all half an hour earlier the chances are that Cowdrey would have been the free-lance journalist travelling with the team and a Cambridge Blue, would have won a cap and a place in the cricket club. This time, he could someone else by the wayside tomorrow, there is an assistant manager, Alan Smith, running to go and trained to the minute for a batting of 60 many hours in the nets.

A 50 per cent increase in prize money for the Open championship at Carnoustie last year was announced by Lord Kinnaird, the Ancient Golf Club's yearbook, for three years the total has been £50,000, but in 1975 there will be £75,000 at stake. This makes it the third highest prize money in Britain, beating the lucrative Touring, Alcan and John Player championships of recent times.

Open money has been collected £7,500, £2,000 more than Gary Player received for winning the title at Lytham this year. Other winners of the £10,000 prize are the player finishing 18th collecting £1,000, the winners prize in 1959.

All 150 players who took off in the championship proper will have £100 each, a 50 per cent increase over this year.

The news comes when golf seems likely, in common with many sports, to have a very busy period of recreation next year, with several sponsored events missing from the calendar. The details of the full 1976 Open are not yet known, but the next Open sponsored tour will be announced next week by John Jacks, the tournament director general of the Professional Golfers' Association, and Mackenzie, the secretary of the Royal and Ancient, said that "the good housekeeping" had made the Open an increasing success. "It was very good for Lytham this year was a help, but we also raised the benefit of golf back to a course where at Open had been the worst. Next year, I think, too, there will be increased administrative charges."

He said the money would not be used for putting up the prices. "The prize money has been held at the same level for the previous three years. Professionals are not paid for their services but the Open is not."

JOHANNESBURG: SR: C. Butrows:
64: B. Franklin, F. Claassen; 70: J.
Faurie, D. Klenk, G. Van Biljan, B.
Krause, R. Venter, H. Hobbs; 71: D.
Johnson, H. Hendring, A. Goshuizen,
C. Henning, D. Hayes, T. Westbroek,
C. Leegrang, C. Heymann, C. de Toll,
N. Hunt; 72: S. Torrance, A. O'Connor,
M. Bailestones; 73: S. Bailestones, M.
King, A. J. Ole, T. Hamer; 71: C.
Willeher, J. J. van der Merwe;
76: J. Schien, W. Humphreys.

right winners, with their three-litre engines, can carry just a little over 20 gallons.

The effect of this new rule will mean a complete denuding of the class, as it is a tremendous effort by teams to perfect the aerodynamics of their cars and so create the minimum of drag without losing too much velocity.

In announcing the new regulations, the organizers have advised potential entrants that they will be required to start the 24-hour race an hour earlier in 1975 in order to demonstrate their capability of running at the required rate. And they will be accepted for the 24-hour race in June. It is possible that the organizers are looking for a change of rule for other long-distance races next year, bringing them into line with the Le Mans economy drive.



We are not yet back to bodyline

But it is not always wise to believe what cricketers say. Certainly if they are speaking for publication, and so I was not greatly shocked by the recent aggressive statement of one of our own bowlers, though they certainly did not make pleasant reading. Many fast bowlers have liked to project a certain image of themselves, and if they now feel they may safely do so by word as well as by deed, it is still their own business. I am sure that the game has nothing to do with the game as much as cricketers tend to think.

Inevitably, many references have been made to the hodyne scene on 23-24. It was the Australian who, at the time, called it hodyne. The Englishman, who was leg-spinner, said that he was not a hodyne, which sounded much less offensive. Jardine, the English captain, insisted that the bowling of Larwood was a hodyne, and so was the batsman, but at the leg stump. Kippax, one of the sufferers, said he would accept that argument if the leg stump was 6ft high and 10ft wide.

Certainly, hodyne could be said to have had tactical origins. In the first Test, Larwood bowled 10 English bowling: 974 runs in the Test matches, average 139. (Larwood four for 232 in three Tests.) In the second Test, Larwood bowled next series of Australian pitches, hardly worth thinking about. Desperate measures were needed. The bowlers were successful. Bradman's average was kept down to 56

Although still the highest on either side/ and his highest score was 105 not out, in the only Test Australia won.

Jardine maintained then and afterwards that the tactics were within the letter of the law (which was quite true, as the law then stood) and also in spirit, as it is clearly proper to take this distance of time at least, they were not). Those were the lines on which the argument was conducted. Jardine would never have dreamed of saying that he liked to see the Australians go. Nor would Larwood.

In any case, was a professional playing under orders, but he also published a book in which he defended the tactics, and thought it contained sound reasons for referring to the conduct of Australian batsmen, his main point was that *hodylax* was legal and effective. He did not say that he enjoyed hodylaxing it. The general impression given by the English defenders of fast leg theory is that they were *compelled* to hodylax.

That was a Test series of unparalleled bitterness. Imagine what would have happened if Larwood had issued a statement after the first Test, saying that he and Woodfull and Oldfield were badly hurt saying that he enjoyed hitting batsmen! (He certainly didn't say that.)

The picture of Oldfield's accident

—Oldfield had deflected the ball on to his head.

Imagine what would have happened if Jardine had staved he found it satisfying whenever he was able to do this, and he tried to win it! Well, a great many things might have happened. Possibly a stroke, or a stroke of Anglo-Australian link. At any rate, there would have been no more Test cricket in that series.

Au tre temps, au tre meurs. There were more people who were critical than there were, or perhaps they were just better mannered. For myself, I feel that unpleasant as it was, it was a necessary and pleasant words, yet can still be made even uglier by them.

But I must be careful, in making this general reflection, to make no suggestion of the late Alec Thomson are bodyline howlers. The word bodyline has occurred because of the legacy of it will be that, and not because of any real similarity of method. The essence of bodyline was howling systematically at a 6ft x 2ft target, and that was not what Jardine believed in one-sided fields. When the ball was new, Larwood and Voce would bowl at the batsman to a crowd of slips and gullies.

Once the switch had gone, the field would change to the leg side, with, usually, five men in the close protection, and then the bumpers would

begin—not one or two or three, but to the over, but five or six, or more, regularly. The angriest crowd I ever demonstrated at the four corners of the field, and the only one that hit. Jarding for Larwood's next over moved the field to leg. Larwood took 33 wickets in the last over, and the field was bowled out or leg-before—which, as Jarding points out in his introduction to Larwood's book, suggests he was not taking into account the formidable effect of the occasional fast bowler slipped in among a string of slow ones.

When I read up Thomson and Lillee bowling five or six bumpers an over, with seven fieldsmen on the leg side, I will believe we are back to the 19th century.

I suppose that even by current standards and current law, they still bowl too many; but the side with the fast bowlers always do that, and I am sure that the fast bowler, cricketer, and we have to leave it to the umpires to see that they do not exceed a fair allocation. I am a little concerned, writing from far away, that the fast bowlers are expending much of their bowling energies in trying to make an over-belligerent response, which might be far from their best tactics. But our suggestions to the respondent will be to let them be.

Alan Gibson

Hine cognac
Fine cognac


HINE connoisseurs' cognac

Calendar of sport for 1975

h sporting doomwatchers are in all parts of the field just now. In its kind in *The Times*, shows enough that we shall not exactly be concerned with sport in this but the more important events have been included.

sponsors are, as they say, rearing their commitments, an important development is the staging of the World Cup for cricket, more a called the Prudential Cup in ice to its underwriters. Although cricketers may affect an air of u, their male counterparts will be the biggest international cricket has known. There will be teams, from Australia, England, East Africa, India, New Zealand, and West Indies. South Africa, remain outside the International Conference umbrella. The matches played on June 7, 11, 14, 18 and 21, final at Lord's.

her significant innovation for is the holding of the world rowing onshps at Nottingham from 21 to 30, with this time two of men's events, for lightweight eayweights. For all the unique of Henley in the world of rowing, e not be able to hold the world onshps in this country because,

until now, we have been unable to meet standard requirements, ie, a course of still water 2,000 metres long and accommodat- ing six crews line abreast.

The new course at Holme Pierrepont has changed all that and the problem nowadays for British rowing is how to correlate the existence of a world championship course with the historical and social importance of Henley, particularly now that a crowded international calendar leaves little room for manoeuvre. For 1975, however, all is settled, with Henley taking its traditional place in July, preceded by another international regatta at Nottingham on June 28 and 29.

Another British "first" will be the newly recognized world show jumping championships in the noble surroundings of Cardiff Castle in June. A competition there this year, sponsored by Benson and Hedges, proved to be a successful pilot model, though whether the same sponsors, or any others, will come to the support of Cardiff Corporation is not yet known.

Followers of Rugby Union are also in clover. With the memory of an outstanding New Zealand team still warm, they can contemplate a home championship spanning January-March, a century match in Dublin in April involving all four unions in the British Isles, two close season tours to while away the sunbathing hours and before the year's end, the Australians back on these shores, playing the first

of their international matches at Murrayfield and Cardiff. Modern travel leads to modern methods and in the course of three weeks in Australia England are to play Australia twice, on May 24 and June 1, and no sooner will they be winging their way home than the Scots will arrive in New Zealand to play an international match in Auckland on June 14.

Golf, more than most, is feeling the economic pinch and, at the moment at least, there is no PGA championship or match-play championship to be. The PGA has had a checkered existence and, in spite of a number of sponsors, the last Vijayla, it has never been able to attain the stature of, say, the United States equivalent. Across the Atlantic the PGA is fourth only to the United States Open, the British Open, and the United States Masters in prestige, but here it counts almost for nothing, beyond the prize money, although it has often enough produced a worthy winner. I doubt if it will ever take its due place in the scheme of things unless it can stand on its own two legs without a sponsor's name to fudge, and therefore devalue, its title.

The match-play is a television casualty, since sponsorship demands television exposure and they get little mileage out of say, A. Jacklin beating A. Scrubber on the 13th green, with all the television paraphernalia installed for a breathtaking finale on the 18th. The latest sponsors,

Benson and Hedges (how addicted British sport is to tobacco), regarded their stroke-play tournament this year as a vastly more successful operation than the match-play at distant Downfield. It cannot have been entirely due to the appearance of Sam Sneed at Fulford.

The tennis calendar we present here is, alas, as comprehensive as we would have liked, but the changing face of the game has eroded the fixture list in these parts. Wimbledon, of course, survives (and will continue to do so in spite of the foolish threat of a boycott by Billie Jean King and her benchwomen if they do not receive prize money equal to the men's) and Paris and Rome might hope to retain their prestige, but for the rest most of the action is in the United States, where young pretenders seek to emulate James Connors and Christine Evert and established players pound a treadmill in pursuit of the almighty dollar almost to the point of exhaustion. Connors and Laver are no match strong left arms for \$100,000 (nearly £45,000), winner take all, at Las Vegas in February, and efforts are afoot to mount a million dollar tournament at Houston in the summer. But are they sporting occasions or do they belong, rather, to the world of show business? Meanwhile, in impoverished Britain, Rothmans have withdrawn from the British hard court championships, so the Bournemouth tournament must remain in

doubt, though a spokesman for the Lawn Tennis Association assures me that the championships will be held, because they must be held. He seemed to think, with the late Senator McCarthy, that their cancellation would be the most unheard-of thing he had ever heard of.

For athletes the year will be comparatively quiet, a time for gathering one's strength and perfecting one's technique before the supreme Olympic effort the following year in Montreal. The highlight of the season here will surely be the match against the Soviet Union at Crystal Palace, followed, a few days later, by the meeting organized by the International Athletes' Club at the same stadium.

Horse racing and motor racing follow traditional patterns but those who race in yachts have a special titbit with the Admiral's Cup series off Cowes in August, culminating in the Fastnet Race, which launches the ocean racers into the Atlantic on August 9.

The new squash centre at Wembley will be busy with competition of the highest level. Three championships are to be held there, the Open, the women's and the amateur, besides a men's match against Pakistan and a women's match against Australia, both unfortunately restricted to amateurs and therefore lacking, among others, the incomparable Heather McKay. Footballers are unable to march this

year's World Cup and will be sustained, at international level, by the long-running European championship. Our two heavyweights, England and Scotland, have already suffered disappointments and will have their work cut out at the back end of the year if they are to survive.

Rugby League, struggling still for public recognition, in spite of generous television coverage (or perhaps because of it and its irreverent commentator), is trying a new format for its principal competition. The World Cup has been scrapped and in its place there will be a World Championship, run on different lines and involving five countries—Australia, New Zealand, France, England and Wales. The first leg will be in the antipodes in October, and the second in Europe in October. In order to establish themselves as separate entities for the first time (rather than collectively as Britain) England and Wales are to share a triangular tournament with France at the beginning of the year.

And for those with a taste for the unusual, I recommend the world ice-pin bowling championships at Tolworth, on the Kingston-by-pass, October 3-11. But please don't let rush. They can accommodate only 350 spectators—and Teddy Tiotlog will be among them.

John Hennessey

hery

- 2: British indoor championships, d.
- 4-25: British field championships, London.
- 15-28: World championships, Inter.
- 6-27: British target championships, ck.

letics

- Feb 1: British indoor champion- Cosford.
- 14-19: European indoor champion- Katowice.
- 16: International cross-country ionship, Rabat.
- 1-22: East Germany v Britain (also alia women), Dresden.
- 5: Soviet Union v United States, 1 Palace.
- 13: European Cup semi-final, men, 1 Palace.
- 19: Women's AAA championships, 1 Palace.
- 12: AAA championships, Crystal .
- Netherlands v Britain v Hungary 1 Drachten.
- 5-17: European Cup finals, Nice.
- 4-25: Britain v Soviet Union, Crystal .
- 9: International Athletics Club meet- crystal Palace.
- 13-14: Britain v Sweden, Edinburgh.

dminton

- 19-22: All-England championships, dley.
- h 24: England v Japan, Preston.
- 31-June 6: Uber Cup finals, Jakarta.

skethall

- h 28-30: British championships, ff.
- 10: European Champions' Cup .
- 7-15: European championship, ion A, in Yugoslavia.

liards, snooker

- 7-12: English amateur billiards ionship, Middlesbrough.
- 14-31: World professional snooker ionship, Australia.
- 7-22: English amateur snooker ionship, Hull.

bsleigh, toboggan

- 11-12: Heaton Gold Cup, Cresta Run, lortz.
- 13-12: European toboggan champion- s, Oleng.
- 18-19: Curzon Cup, Cresta Run, St ita.
- 1-2: Brabazon Trophy, Cresta Run, St itz.
- 6-7: British bobsleigh championship, lortz (prov).
- 14-22: World bobsleigh champion- s, Cervinia.
- 15: Grand National, Cresta Run, St itz.
- 15-16: World toboggan championships, nnerstrand.

owls

- 11-23: ERA championships, Worthing.
- 11-16: English women's champion- ps, Leamington Spa.

oxing

- 1-22: Scotland v England, Edinburgh.
- 2: ABA finals, Wembley.
- 1-8: European championships, tovice.

anoeing

- ab 15-16: British open whitewater cham- onships, Bala.
- me 25-29: World slalom and whitewater ampionships, Skopje.
- ly 31-Aug 3: World sprint champion- ps, Belgrade.
- ug 23-24: British open long distance ampionships, Worcester.
- et 11-12: British open slalom champion- ps, Llangollen.

Cricket

- an 4-9: Australia v England, Sydney.
- an 25-30: Australia v England, Adelaide.
- eb 8-13: Australia v England, Melbourne.
- eb 20-25: New Zealand v England, Auckland.
- eb 28-March 5: New Zealand v England, Christchurch.
- June 7: World Cup: Australia v Pakistan, Jeddah.
- July 1: England v India, Lords; New Zealand v East Africa, Edgbaston; West Indies v Ceylon, Old Trafford.

- June 11: World Cup: Australia v Ceylon, Oval; England v New Zealand, Trent Bridge; India v East Africa, Headingley; Pakistan v West Indies, Edgbaston.

- June 14: World Cup: Australia v West Indies, Oval; England v East Africa, Edgbaston; India v New Zealand, Old Trafford; Pakistan v Ceylon, Trent Bridge.

- June 18: World Cup semi-final round, Headingley and Oval.

- June 21: World Cup final, Lord's.

- June 22-23: England XI v Rest, women, Birmingham.

- July 10-15: England v Australia, Edgbaston.

- July 19: Benson and Hedges Cup final, Lord's.

- July 19-21: England XI v Rest, women, Headingley.

- July 31-Aug 5: England v Australia, Lord's.

- Aug 14-19: England v Australia, Headingley.

- Aug 28-Sept 2: England v Australia, Oval.

- Sept 6: Gillette Cup final, Lord's.

Croquet

- May 12-17: Peel Memorial, Cheltenham.
- July 14-19: Open championships, Hurlingham.
- Sept 2-6: President's Cup, Hurlingham.
- Sept 27-28: All-England Handicaps, Rotherhampton.

Cycling

- May 25-June 7: Tour of Britain (Milk Race).
- June 8-13: Manx race week, Isle of Man.
- June 22: British professional road race championship, Harrogate.
- June 27-July 20: Tour de France.
- July 13: British amateur road race championship, Bromsgrove.
- July 23-27: Scottish Milk Race.
- July 26-Aug 2: British track championships, Leicester.
- Aug 22-31: World championships, Belgium.

Equestrian

- April 23-26: Badminton horse trials.
- May 22-25: Royal Windsor show.
- June 13-15: World professional show jumping championship, Cardiff Castle.
- July 21-26: Royal International show, Wembley.
- Aug 14-17: British jumping Derby, Hickstead.
- Aug 15-17: European show jumping championship, Munich.
- Sept 3-7: European equestrian event championship, Lunnik, W Germany.
- Sept 4-7: British show jumping championships, Hickstead.
- Oct 6-11: Horse of the Year Show, Wembley.
- Dec 17-20: Dunhill tournament, Earls Court.

Fencing

- March 1-3: Martini épée competition, de Beaumont Centre and Seymour Hall.
- March 22-23: British épée championship, de Beaumont.
- April 19-20: British sabre and women's foil championships, de Beaumont.
- May 17-18: Men's foil championship, de Beaumont.
- June 14-15: Sabre team championship, de Beaumont.
- June 21-22: Épée team championship, de Beaumont.
- July 10-20: World championships, Budapest.

Football

- Feb 5: Cyprus v England; Spain v Scotland.
- March 1: Football League Cup final, Wembley.
- March 12: England v West Germany, Wembley.
- April 16: England v Cyprus, Wembley; Hungary v Wales; N Ireland v Yugoslavia.
- May 1: Luxembourg v Wales.
- May 3: FA Cup Final, Wembley; Scottish Cup Final, Hampden Park.
- May 7: UEFA Cup Final, first leg.
- May 14: European Cup Winners' Cup Final, Basle.
- May 17: Wales v Scotland; N Ireland v England.
- May 21: England v Wales, Wembley; Scotland v N Ireland, Hampden Park.
- May 24: England v Scotland, Wembley; N Ireland v Wales.
- May 21: UEFA Cup Final, second leg.
- May 28: European Cup Final, Paris.
- June 1: Romania v Scotland.
- Sept 3: N Ireland v Sweden; Denmark v Scotland.
- Oct 29: N Ireland v Norway; Scotland v Denmark; Czechoslovakia v England.
- Nov 19: Wales v Austria; Yugoslavia v N Ireland; Portugal v England.
- Dec 17: Scotland v Romania.

Gliding

- May 24-June 1: British championships, Husbands Bosworth.
- Aug 16-25: European championships, Dunstable.



The Holme Pierrepont course at Nottingham, the setting for the first world rowing championships to be held in this country.

Golf

- April 10-13: United States Masters, Augusta.
- May 16-18: Brabazon Trophy, Notts GC, Holmwell.
- May 28-29: Walker Cup, St Andrews.
- June 2-7: British amateur championship, Royal Liverpool.
- June 10-14: British women's championship, St Andrews.
- June 19-22: United States Open championship, Chicago.
- June 26-28: Women's Commonwealth tournament, Gwenton.
- June 26-29: European amateur team championship, Killarney.
- July 3-6: European women's team championship, St Cloud.
- July 9-12: British Open championship, Carnoustie.
- Aug 6-9: Colgate European women's open tournament, Sunningdale.
- Aug 27-29: British women's stroke-play championship, Northumberland GC.
- Sept 4-5: Vagabond Trophy, women, Muirfield.
- Sept 19-21: Ryder Cup, Laurel Valley, Penn.
- Sept 23-27: Double Diamond tournament, Turaherry.
- Oct 1-4: Dunlop Masters, Ganton.
- Oct 9-11: Piccadilly match-play tournament, Wentworth.
- Dec 3-7: World Cup, Bangkok.

Greyhound racing

- April 12: Grand National, White City.
- June 28: Derby, White City.
- Sept 1: St Leger, Wembley.

Gymnastics

- Jan 18: Champion Cup tournament, Royal Albert Hall.
- April 12: Champions All international, Wembley.
- May 2-4: European women's championships, Skien.
- May 31-June 1: European men's championships, Bern.

Hockey

- Jan 26: Scotland v England, Edinburgh.
- March 1: England v Ireland women, Edgbaston; Wales v Scotland women, Swansea.
- March 1-15: World Cup, Kuala Lumpur.
- March 2: County championship final, Wembley.
- March 8: England v Wales women, Wembley.
- March 15: Ireland v Scotland, women.
- March 22: Scotland v Ireland, Glasgow; Scotland v England women, Grange-mouth; Wales v Ireland women, Milford Haven.
- March 23-23: International festival (England, Wales, Poland, France), Lord's.
- April 5: Women's county championship final, Dublin.
- April 19: England v Wales, Bristol; Netherlands v England women, Bristol.
- April 27: National club final.
- May 17-19: European club championship, Frankfurt.
- Aug 28-Sept 11: World championship, women, Edinburgh.

Ice hockey

- April 3-10: World championship, pool A first round, Munich.
- April 13-19: World championship, pool A second round, Düsseldorf.
- March 1-10: World championship, pool C, Sofia.
- March 14-23: World championship, pool B, Sapporo.

Judo

- April 19: British men's open championship, Crystal Palace.
- May 7-11: European championships, Paris.
- Oct 20-25: World championships, Vienna.
- Nov 8: British women's open championship, Crystal Palace.

Lacrosse

- March 15: England v Scotland, women, Hurlingham Park.
- Oct 4: Wales v United States, women.
- Oct 8: England v United States, women, Liverpool.
- Oct 18: Scotland v United States, women, Murrayfield.
- Oct 25: Britain v United States, women, Hurlingham Park.

Modern pentathlon

- Aug 14-17: British championships (venue undecided).
- Oct 26-30: World championships, Mexico.

Motor cycling

- May 4: British 125cc moto-cross grand prix, Sandown.
- June 22: Isle of Man TT races.
- June 22: British 250cc moto-cross grand prix, Cbalton.
- July 6: British 500cc moto-cross grand prix, Hawkstone Park.
- Aug 9-10: British Formula 750cc grand prix, Silverstone.
- Sept 4: Manx grand prix, Isle of Man.
- Sept 6: World speedway championship, Wembley.

Motor racing

- Jan 12: Argentine GP, Buenos Aires.
- Jan 17-26: Monte Carlo rally.
- Jan 26: Brazilian GP, Interlagos.
- March 2: South African GP, Kyalami.
- April 27: Spanish GP, Barcelona.
- May 11: Monaco GP.
- May 25: Belgian GP, Nivelles or Zolder.
- June 6: Swedish GP, Anderstorp.
- June 14-15: Le Mans 24-hour race.
- June 22: Dutch GP, Zandvoort.
- July 8: French GP, Dijon or Paul Ricard.
- July 19: British GP, Silverstone.
- Aug 3: German GP, Nürburgring.
- Aug 17: Austrian GP, Zeltweg.
- Sept 7: Italian GP, Monza.
- Sept 21: Canadian GP, Mosport Glen.
- Oct 5: United States GP, Watkins Glen.
- Nov 21-26: RAC rally.

Polo

- June 8: Queen's Cup final, Windsor.
- July 20: Cowdray Park Gold Cup final.
- July 27: Wills International, Windsor.

Racing

- Feb 8: Schweppes Gold Trophy, Newbury.
- March 12: Champion Hurdle, Cheltenham.
- March 13: Cheltenham Gold Cup.
- April 5: Grand National, Liverpool.
- May 1: 1,000 Guineas, Newmarket.
- May 3: 2,000 Guineas, Newmarket.
- June 4: Derby, Epsom.
- June 6: Oaks, Epsom.
- June 8: French Derby, Chantilly.
- June 17-20: Royal Ascot.
- June 28: Irish Derby, the Curragh.
- July 5: Eclipse Stakes, Sandown Park.
- July 26: King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes, Ascot.
- July 29-Aug 2: Goodwood.
- Aug 19: Benson and Hedges Gold Cup, York.

Shooting

- May 15-17: British sporting clay pigeon championship, Northolt.
- May 24-25: Grand prix, sporting clay pigeon, Ganton.
- June 18: British small-bore championship, Bisley.
- July 14-26: NRA meeting, Bisley.
- July 26: Queen's Prize, Bisley.
- Aug 2-3: Grand prix, skeet, Evershot.
- Aug 8-9: British skeet championship, Elstow.
- Aug 9-10: Grand prix, Olympic trap, Sea-laud.

Rackets, real tennis

- Feb 14-22: Amateur rackets singles championship, Queen's Club.
- April 14-19: Amateur rackets doubles championship, Queen's Club.
- April 22-May 4: Amateur real tennis singles championship, Queen's Club.
- May 5-11: Real tennis open doubles championship, Queen's Club.

Rowing

- March 22: Head of the River, Morpale to Pusey.
- March 29: University Boat Race (3.0).
- May 26-31: Oxford University Summer Eights (prov).
- June 4-7: Cambridge University May Races (prov).
- June 28-29: Nottinghamshire International, Nottingham.
- July 3-6: Henley Royal Regatta.
- July 18-20: British championships, Nottingham.
- July 23: Doggett's Coat and Badge, London Bridge to Chelsea (11.15).
- Aug 21-24: Men's lightweight and women's world championships, Nottingham.
- Aug 26-30: Men's world championships, Nottingham.

Rugby League

- Jan 19: France v England, Perpignan or Carcassonne (prov).
- March 2: Wales v France, Pontypool (prov).
- March 29: England v Wales, Salford.
- Feb 15: Challenge Cup Final, Wembley.
- May 17: Club championship final.
- June 7-21: World championship, Sydney and Auckland (prov).
- Oct 11-25: World championship, Britain and France (prov).

Rugby Union

- Jan 18: Ireland v England, Dublin; France v Wales, Paris.
- Feb 1: England v France, Twickenham; Scotland v Ireland, Murrayfield.
- Feb 15: Wales v England, Cardiff; France v Scotland, Paris.
- March 1: Scotland v Wales, Murrayfield; Ireland v France, Dublin.
- March 5: UAI final, Twickenham.
- March 15: England v Scotland, Twickenham; Wales v Ireland, Cardiff.
- March 22: County championship final.
- April 19: Ireland/Scotland v England/Wales, Dublin.
- April 26: RFU club competition final, Twickenham.
- May 3: Middlesex Sevens, Twickenham.
- May 24: Australia v England, Sydney.
- June 1: Australia v England, Brisbane.
- June 14: New Zealand v Scotland, Auckland.
- Dec 6: Scotland v Australia, Murrayfield.
- Dec 9: Oxford v Cambridge, Twickenham.
- Dec 20: Wales v Australia, Cardiff.

Skating

- Jan 25-26: Men's European ice speed skating championships, Heerenveen.
- Jan 26-Feb 1: European ice figure championships, Copenhagen.
- Feb 8-9: Men's world ice speed championships, Oslo.
- Feb 15-16: Men's and women's world ice sprint championships, Gothenburg.
- Feb 22-23: Women's world ice speed championships, Assen.
- March 4-8: World ice figure championships, Colorado Springs.
- July 26-27: British roller championships, Edmonston.
- Sept 15-17: World roller championships, Brisbane.
- Nov 15: British ice dance championships, Nottingham (prov).
- Dec 2-3: British ice figure championships, Richmond (prov).

Skiing

- Jan 5-8: British championships, Val d'Isère.
- Jan 9-10: SDS combined, women, Grindelwald.
- Jan 11-12: Lauerhorn Cup, men, Wengen.
- Jan 15-16: World Cup combined, women, Schruns.
- Jan 18-19: Hahnenkamm Trophy, men, Kirchbühl.
- Jan 20-28: British biathlon and cross-country championships, Oberjoch.
- Jan 25: Olympic course downhill, women, Axamer-Lizum.
- Jan 26: Olympic course downhill, men, Igls.
- Jan 30-Feb 2: Arlberg-Kandahar, Chamorro, Megève, St Gervais.
- Feb 9-16: World biathlon championships, Anterselva.

Squash rackets

- Jan 7: Britain v Pakistan, Wembley.
- Jan 30-Feb 7: British Open championship, Wembley.
- Feb 12: Britain v Australia women, amateur, Bournemouth.
- Feb 15: Britain v Australia women, amateur, Coventry.
- Feb 26: Britain v Australia women, amateur, Wembley.
- Feb 28-March 6: British women's open championship, Wembley.
- March 21-24: British Amateur close championship, Wembley.
- March 21-24: British professional close championship, Guernsey.
- April 10-13: European Amateur championships, Dublin.

Swimming

- March 13-15: ASA short course championships, Manchester.
- Mar 29-31: Coca-Cola meeting, Crystal Palace.
- Sept 12-13: Six Nations tournament, Stockholm.
- July 18-25: World championships, Cali.
- Aug 15-16: European Cup, women, Leeds.
- Aug 16-17: European Cup, men, Moscow.
- Aug 22-23: Springboard championships, Huddersfield.
- Aug 28-30: ASA championships, Coventry.
- Aug 29-30: Highboard championships, Crystal Palace.

Table tennis

Why East Asia is determined to keep the West a world away

Independence to the East Asian mind means first the removal from the totality of East Asian civilization of all western intrusions and the complete fulfilment of an acquired nationalism

The first article in this series defined East Asia (China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam) as a separate civilization from the rest of Asia and one that consciously defended itself from the onslaught of western empire. Today it still sees its situation as one of confrontation and comparison with the West. The article ended by asking which way all four countries might go in the future.

But before considering each country separately more needs to be said about the character of this distinctive civilization, without some basic ideas being put into the most easily visible distinctions. The record of where in Asia western power has found its limits is to be distinctive enough in its toughness and its resistance to the West. Japan from 1941 to 1945, Koreans and Chinese from 1950 to 1953, Vietnamese from 1946 to 1954 and again from 1964 to 1973; even the Malayan "emergency" meant fighting mostly Chinese.

Disciplined work is also visible enough in the area of economic growth that can be traced from Korea North and South, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong down to Singapore, becoming only China itself under Chairman Mao has different priorities and Vietnam (crippled by war). All this is one of East Asian achievement and is manifestly better than will be found in any other parts of "developing" Asia. If Kuala Lumpur or Bangkok are other minor stars, it is the Chinese ingredient that gives the sparkle.

Many will also have noticed the toughness allied to political commitment in the record of student activity. In all of these countries, if one looks back over half a century or more, the student political movement has been a formidable political phenomenon, much more formidable and politically conscious than those elsewhere in Asia, certainly since the rest of Asia became independent. There is a tenacity and courage in the political convictions of Chinese, Japanese, Koreans and Vietnamese of an altogether different quality.

Such a dedication that is in the broad sense political offers the best key to East Asian concern. Man in society is the theme. The civilization is this-worldly, not other-worldly, for China, and thus East Asia, has been mostly agnostic; at least no church has ever arisen to challenge the omnipotent state. That omission is perhaps the first stumbling block to the western mind in understanding East Asia: we have been so used to so long to the dichotomy and to the differing values expressed by church and state.

The other western difficulty is to comprehend a civilization that has never discovered or cultivated individualism but has always, in contrast, stressed the collective. Only in the group does the East Asian find fulfilment. It was instructive in Hong Kong after the communist conquest of the mainland in the early fifties to note how many Chinese coming thence were readily hailed as "refugees" by a cold war conscious western press but were mostly those who because of war and disaster had lost all contact with any group.

It might be added, so important in any culture being the words in which we give shape to the ideas we have evolved, that it is impossible to express the concept of individualism in Chinese except by pejorative-sounding words. One may note this emphasis in China today. If any of us make any connection with officialdom we will first be asked our name and address; they establish our identity. The Chinese will usually first be asked what unit he belongs to.

The Confucian social and political prescription is thus authoritarian and hierarchical from the family upwards to the emperor. The concept of opposition in a political sense or indeed any form of opposition to authority was unacceptable because disruptive of society. Even after a century of nominal democracy Japan's opposition parties have not all acquired real roots while those of South Korea and South Vietnam are allowed by the authoritarian centre to scarcely more than as pawns to western susceptibilities. Such

parties cannot escape a sense of acting out of character. A day spent in the Diet in Tokyo and the Lok Sabha in New Delhi offers instructive comparison.

A "constitutional" opposition in the western democratic sense is still a strange phenomenon to East Asian sensibilities. What the Confucianist political ethic did allow, however, was rebellion—given the eroded moral foundation of the existing order; and given also the sound moral fibre of the rebels (the winners of course always claimed this; the losers were not accorded it). Chairman Mao's acquisition of power through these traditional channels was entirely Confucian in its traditional context; the victory was seen primarily as a moral one and was so proclaimed. In short anyone who expects democracy to flower or individual freedom to be fought for in East Asian societies had better realize what contrary traditions have first to be worn down. Only in the big cities has western influence of this kind made much headway.

One could list many other qualities that mark out East Asia. A capacity for self-discipline goes with the collectivism. There is a strong work

ethic—without benefit of Protestantism. The passion for education is general and is transmitted from generation to generation; a Chinese classroom would be a paradise to any harassed English teacher. In all East Asian countries intellectual life gains from one language: no English or French-speaking upper class is continually divorced from the society.

But what matters to us however is the confrontation between the East Asian civilization and the West that began in the last century and that continues for the most part peacefully in this. And here it is necessary to risk vulgarities by picking up that old tag about inscrutable Orientals. The first impressions that gave rise to the adjective were not wrong. East Asia is certainly unwilling or unable to explain itself; its culture being clubbable for those who belong while hidden generally from those who do not. For them the inside (us) and the outside (them) are more powerful concepts marking greater distinctions than those every society makes of any other that is alien to it.

The reverse of this self-censorship and self-awareness of a civilization is an unwilling-

ness to explore and understand other civilizations. To the bare decade or so earlier in this century when salvation in the West seemed the answer to Chinese needs explorers went out into the western wilderness and worked hard but the encounter was very brief. Nor was it in any way mutual. The understanding of China—or Japan—was not a priority that had entered the western mind in the first half of this century. Even the sinologists ended their histories of China with the Ming dynasty and a bare chapter on the Ching.

It follows that if you do not understand the civilization with which you are trying to communicate you will go the wrong way about it. A very garbled or incomprehensible message will be received; or one that seems ludicrously irrelevant. This applies both ways. The willingness of some East Asians to present a front to the West, to translate themselves into western terms, tends only to create another barrier to mutual understanding.

The wholehearted western understanding of East Asia may find that his wish to be at home in the country is not often welcomed, or requires of him total surrender; the capacity to absorb others culturally is not a feature that westerners developed very early in their history. The visitor will find that foreigners are special and are treated as such, often to their embarrassment.

If all four East Asian countries have an uncertain future, and if it is more than ever before a future that western power admits it can have little or no power to influence (Korea and Vietnam included) what then are the guidelines and limits to speculation about that future?

What firstly are the objectives foremost in the East Asian mind? The first remains the total independence that was conceived when the western impact was first felt. And this means an independence altogether greater than the independence that other colonial countries claimed. It means firstly the removal from the totality of East Asian civilization of all western intrusions, and the complete fulfilment of a newly acquired nationalism.

The objective is equality with the West, not forgetting that the old assumptions of superiority survive, even if not in the conscious mind. But in the process of regeneration it means an emphasis on self-help, on imports from the West limited only to those necessary for regeneration—industrial technology and the like—not knocking down the wall that surrounds the East Asian culture.

Of course there is a debate within these countries as to how much contact with the West modernization requires, but it is not an argument of essence, only an argument of how much. The nationalism of East Asia never questions that its modernization is carried out on the assumption that its traditional civilization is being restored; one that has bad and will have a continuous history.

Next to the independence—what one might call the spiritual quality of East Asian civilization. Perhaps the word is misleading, with its religious connotation to the western mind; but it is no less true to say that western misunderstanding of East Asian civilization arises most often from its inability to appreciate the moral core of an essentially agnostic society.

So the process of regeneration demands a revised doctrine, in place of the amalgam that has come to be known as Confucianism, a doctrine in which the role of the state and the articulation of society is laid down. This can mean revising the old ideas with new ones, or by importing the ideas formulated by another civilization, and adapting them to the conditions of East Asia so that they work in its aid: grafting them and planting them within the soil of the old society. But without some such a doctrine as a core, East Asian societies will tend to feel themselves adrift in a sea of global western influence. How can they keep direction except with the aid of their own doctrine? What role can they play unless there is a doctrine to justify and guide it?

Richard Harris
(To be continued)

Liverpool may envy Hamburg but will never copy her

The Council Chamber in Liverpool's town hall is a monument to Victorian confidence and solidity, with a gilded ceiling, huge marble fireplace and large semi-circular leather benches for the councillors. The Labour councillors, now in a minority, fill one side of the room—large, middle-aged confident men at one with their traditional surroundings. The new Liberal councillors, by contrast, look wholly out of place—youthful faces, polo-necked jerseys, beards, pretty young women. The election of this new and largely unknown group of people was the result of an unprecedented doorstep campaign with the slogan, "Back to basics", coupled with the promise of a council which would consult and respond to the people.

But the Liberals are a minority government, and many people in the city expect them to lose control at next year's election, thus continuing the trend of one political group succeeding another so rapidly that there has been no continuity of the city's policies in such vital areas as schools and housing over the past decade.

Liverpool's problem of lack of continuity is exactly the reverse of Hamburg's, where the Social Democrat Party (the SPD) have been in power (sometimes as the senior partner of a coalition) for 24 years. The result is that the first thing any Hamburg councillor will say about the city is that its administration is, in the words of a phrase, "a red oligarchy". A businessman, a shopkeeper, a journalist produced the identical criticism: "good jobs go with a party card and political nepotism, and the SPD party run the policy making in the State Parliament, as well as being enmeshed in the executive functions of the administration including the public utilities such as electricity, transport, cooperative supermarkets, banks and building societies."

The citizens of both cities have noticed this criticism to offer about their respective city governments, but the criticisms are the obverse of each other—in Liverpool they say the Liberals are too idealistic and not businesslike enough. While in Hamburg they say the SPD is busy being businesslike for its own benefit to really heed the people.

The constituencies of the two cities provide some of the clues to the enormous disparity between the general efficiency and prosperity of Hamburg, compared with Liverpool. Hamburg is for administrative purposes both a city and state, with a State Parliament of 122 members elected every four years. This legislature itself elects a Senate of between 10 and 15 members. These men give up their ordinary jobs, as well as all social life, for the highest status and the hardest work available in the city.

English local administration has no equivalent in this pool of high calibre men, many of whom go on from these jobs to positions in the Federal Government in Bonn. In Liverpool, the 99 councillors (except one of the new young Liberals) have full-time jobs as well as their committee work which takes about three afternoons a week, two or three evenings "surgeries" for constituents a week, and usually one party meeting. The council itself meets very few times. The committee work is serviced by the city's 7,000 man permanent administration, accountable to the Council.

A second major difference is in the district administration of the two cities. Hamburg has seven district councils, and again the heads of these are men who do full-time four year stints. Each district council has a small-scale but important autonomy with rather more than £100,000 a year to spend. Five years ago, in an effort to improve the effectiveness of the city's administration, Liverpool Council spent £150,000 on a McKinsey management report. The corporation's committees

were promptly reduced from six to six and 26 departments. But McKinsey could solve the lack of liaison between departments, nor geographical chaos of city centres, central and local government offices dealing with litigations such as housing, education, health, education welfare, social services, etc. and a crowded area of the city, and a crowded area with diffuse boundaries so that an effective and coordinated service almost impossible.

A fundamental difference between the two cities seems to come from their constituent relationship to central government. Whereas Liverpool almost half of its funds (except for major capital expenditure) are financed from income tax (half of which it must pass on to Bonn), Hamburg's 63 per cent to Bonn.

This need to be economically self-reliant marks the atmosphere of Hamburg's social services, etc. and a businesslike pragmatism. The same self-reliance there is in the relations between Hamburg and central government is there the relationship between Hamburg and its citizens. The difference between the two cities is exemplified by housing policy in Hamburg. 52 per cent of houses were destroyed in war, and in an emergency building programme 485,000 houses were built. Of these 300,000 were systems of tenement government loans which raised privately by the war to tenant and the development of present-day developers to keep rents down, but only 10 per cent or less of housing was owned by the city. Liverpool, on the other hand, owns one-third of its homes, and needs £15.5m subsidy from central government towards its housing deficit. The vast sl clearance programme to provide 3,000 homes between 1966 and 1974 is about a third behind.

In various parts of Liverpool, a businessman, a dockerman, a councillor, the leader of a council, said: "We have to learn from West Germany." None of them want to learn that there are no magic answers. Liverpool or Carr docks, which will become rich by the free port like Hamburg part of the renegotiations of the Common Market terms; the Dockland Action Group that the £20m South Docks will be turned over free to people of the city as the great waterfront recreation area in England when the Government nationalises the dock Mersey Dock and Harbours Company dream that the city government will start paying the £1m a year for dredging the river, as they do in Germany and that the company can make a profit instead of a £2 loss, if the Government would subsidize it as Germany does theirs.

But no one is saying, as there are in Hamburg, that the present economic situation there can be no grandiose capital expenditure in the hope of future dividends for the city and the only dreams worth being are of balancing the budget by such tough measures as the proposed for Hamburg Die Zeit by Frank Dahmen—sacking 5,000 of the city 105,000 employees, for instance or sacking 400 teachers increasing every class in the city by one child. But Hamburg has 2.1 per cent unemployment whereas Liverpool has 6.8 per cent and the figure is rising. The city's unemployment problems are unlikely to be acceptable in Liverpool. Liverpool will continue to envy Hamburg but they will not emulate it.

Victoria Britain
(Concluded)

Computer that links every policeman to a data bank

The long electronic memory of the law

The introduction into service of the Home Office's Police National Computer System is transforming national police inquiries as dramatically as clip-on radiotelephones transformed local communications.

It is giving faster access to information, more immediate responses to inquiries, and more flexible operations.

The general aim is to give local police forces throughout the country immediate access to selected central records. These records are held on the Police National Computer system at Hendon; and the local forces use their own terminals to contact the system via a network of Post Office data lines.

A £5m twin Burroughs computer is at the heart of the system. Total cost to 1980, including hardware, staff and other running costs, will be between £10m and £15m. By the late 1970s there will be about 1,000 terminals connected to Hendon.

When fully operational, the police system will be the largest "real-time" (immediate-response) system of its type in Europe. It is comparable to a major airline computer system, with the significant difference that the records are not only more numerous but have to be retained on file for many years. Initially, three types of records are being held on the Hendon computer. These are an index of owners of motor

vehicles; an index of New Scotland Yard's fingerprint file; and an index of stolen and suspect motor vehicles.

The first of these reflects the recent centralization of vehicle registrations by the Department of the Environment at its new Swansea computer centre. Previously the police had access to the 200-plus local-authority tax offices when they needed to trace the owner of a vehicle.

Now the same information is available from Swansea. Magnetic tapes are sent from Swansea to Hendon daily, and extracts from the DoE entries are used to keep the police files up to date.

Fingerprint records of about 2.5 million people are held in the National Fingerprint Office in New Scotland Yard. Initially the Hendon computer is to handle court-appearance inquiries only—checking the full set of prints taken when a person is arrested against those already on file.

Later, the system is expected to be extended to include scene-of-crime investigations.

To computerize the index, it was necessary to devise a special numerical code to classify individual prints. After visual inspection each print is allocated two numbers, one representing a pattern code and the other a ridge count.

There are 30 patterns, each of which can have about 30 values of the ridge count. In theory this gives 10×30×30 possible combinations, since different fingers of the same person can have different fingerprints.



binations, since different fingers of the same person can have different fingerprints. In practice, several thousand such combinations may occur with any one search. This coding system is believed to be the most detailed of its type in the world, and is certainly more exact than the manual classification code used previously.

Reporting and locating stolen vehicles has been speeded up considerably using the Hendon computer. Previously it could take up to 10 days for information to reach all police forces throughout the country, via manual reporting on a local and regional basis and published supplements to the Police Gazette.

Now, using the computer, reports of thefts can be immediately entered via the local terminals to the national data bank at Hendon. And, for the first time, the computer will provide a national index of suspect as well as stolen vehicles.

If the full registration number, chassis or engine number of a suspect vehicle is known, an inquiry via a terminal can produce an immediate response indicating whether or not the vehicle is listed as stolen, or is otherwise known to the police. If the number is only partially known, or if a "descriptive search" for, say, a blue Jaguar or a red Mini is wanted, the computer can search the files—of vehicle owners or of stolen vehicles—and list those vehicles which might fit the description.

These three initial applications are all based on "numbers" files. They will be followed on to the computer by several "names" applications where the inquiries may be less precise.

Two of these new applications are computer-based versions of existing national indexes—of criminal names, and of persons who are wanted, missing, or suspected of specific criminal offences—which are held in the Criminal Record Office at New Scotland Yard.

Two others will be brought together on a national basis for the first time: these will list all disqualified drivers, and all persons subject to suspended or deferred sentences.

These "people" files will be based on name, sex, colour of skin, height, and date of birth. A phonetic system of name recognition has been adopted.

The names indexes will help to answer the "Anything known?" type of inquiry. The computer-held criminal names index, it is planned, will eventually be part of an automated criminal records system; initially it will give basic information only, directing attention to the appropriate file held at New Scotland Yard for the full criminal history.

A notable feature of the police computer system is the sheer size of its memory, which has to accommodate files growing to about 25 million vehicle owners, the coded fingerprints of about three million people, some five million criminal names, perhaps 200,000 stolen vehicles, and provision for many more records in the future.

Kenneth Owen

Technology Correspondent
(Based on an extract from Computing in Government, written for the Central Computer Agency by Kenneth Owen. Available from the Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 1JR).

The Times Diary

Heroic, futile and very expensive

habitat



Our Cook's Diary features a recipe using herbs for every week in 1975. Beautifully illustrated by Ian Beck, plenty of space for notes and appointments. Our gardeners diary advises what should be done in the garden, each week. It is illustrated by etchings, wood blocks, water colours and botanical prints. Our desk diary has a marbled cover of pink and pale ochre. They all make notable presents.

Seven Conservative members of both the British and European Parliaments left the chamber of the European Parliament in the middle of a quite important discussion on the results of the Paris summit. But when they arrived at Luxembourg airport they found that it was snowing too heavily for their scheduled flight to take off.

When the snow eased, ice formed on the wings and there was a two-hour delay before it could be removed. With the plane did arrive at London airport, the real chase began.

Peter Kirk, leader of the Conservative delegation to Europe, and Hugh Dykes, both official car. Meanwhile Ralph Howell, Tom Norman and Michael Shaw, who would all have voted for a return of banking in cases of murder by terrorism commandeered a taxi. They waited largest (two five pound notes) in front of the driver's nose to encourage him to set there on time.

The driver was himself a supporter of hanging, so needed little financial inducement. Sadly both the taxi and the official car arrived at about the same time, a good four minutes too late to vote. The only European Parliamentarian who managed to vote were James Scott-Hopkins, who was in

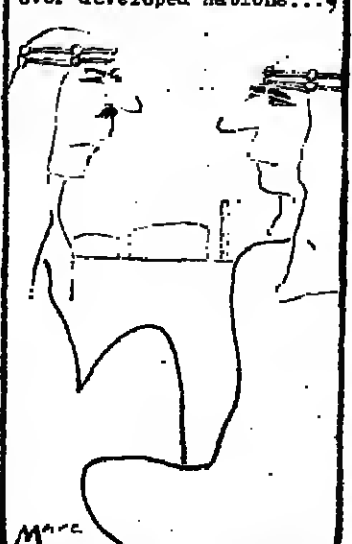
favour of the death penalty, and Sir Brandon Rhys-Williams, against it. They had left Luxembourg earlier. So the net effect of the cross-Channel dash was nil.

But the drama was not over yet. The seven then returned to London Airport to climb aboard a chartered seven-seater Dove aircraft for the journey back to Luxembourg. There they arrived in time, by five minutes, for an important vote on the European budget. All of which proves how ridiculous (and expensive for the British taxpayer) it is to try to do two jobs at once.

Summit he ate
With considerable foresight, Robin Young in Wednesday's Diary spotlighted the risks our Prime Minister was taking by sitting down to dine with the French in Paris. Sure enough, a stomach upset laid him low yesterday when he was due to report to the House on the apparent success of his mission.

Last week, when Wilson returned from Paris, the stomach trouble he had then was blamed on Giscard's mysters. Since then the French foreign minister, Sauvages, has been carried from a banquet on a stretcher (though this has since been blamed on mixing amphetamines with wine), and

"I suppose we'll have to think about aid to the over-developed nations...."



the fact, he made a speech of characteristic ebullience (why is that the word reporters always use about him?).

A convinced European, George Brown made a telling comment on the European debate at last month's Labour Party conference. "I was terrified and frightened," he said, "by the extent to which xenophobic dislike of non-british foreigners has become the keynote of the debate in the Labour Party."

Early next year he will open a branch in Scotland, where the oil boom means that many houses are being bought and where the law is friendlier towards his kind of operation. So far in England the Law Society, he says, have made some hostile noises but have taken no firm action against him.

I noticed that his brief case had his initials in smart gold letters: L. G-B. Surely wrong. I think, Mr. G-B would be more correct. Perhaps a bit xenophobic, though.

There must be some worried prelates in the Vatican after Eduardo de Filippo's attack on Franco Zeffirelli for turning Saturday Sunday Monday on Broadway into a farce which flopped. Zeffirelli has been chosen by the Vatican to produce the televised ceremony for the opening of the Holy Year on Christmas Eve at which the Pope will open the holy door of St Peter's. One of Eduardo de Filippo's detailed objections to Zeffirelli's handling of the play was that characters could not open or shut a door without falling over.

Lovers
The subject of the satisfaction people derive from working has been agonized over for some years now. So far the agonizing has not produced any practical results. People continue to hate work, managements and unions remain at each other's throats, and the talking continues.

At a seminar given by the Industrial Society yesterday, Sir Michael Swann, chairman of the BBC and former principal of Edinburgh University, said that working life was more significant than pay; the sense of achievement and, where this did not apply (as on an assembly line), the sense of belonging which could be achieved through love.

Love, he suggested, could be expressed by appreciation and constructive criticism. "Ever managing directors like to be congratulated," he observed.

Not everyone was satisfied by these arguments. One delegate said it was all very well to talk of belonging, but in these inflationary times it did not pay the bills. "When your wife asks for more money on Friday night, it is no good saying, 'I belong to work but I can't give you any money,'" Sir Michael had to concede the point.

In his latest progress report, General Sir Walter Walker, the founder of Civil Assistance, issues a list of instructions for his county coordinators to follow in the event of the national breakdown which he says is inevitable by Christmas. Under the section headed Self Help, he asks: "In an extreme emergency in hospital, could you get a generator worked from a static bicycle operated by relays of fit chaps each taking a turn at pedalling?" Dad's Army was never like that.

PHS

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THE INFLATION THAT WORKS DOMESTIC

Week's events have focused attention on the external dimension of Britain's economic problems. Specifically the depreciation of the pound, Saudi Arabia's decision to refuse oil in sterling and the increase in the trade gap all refreshed memories from the 1950s and 1960s of economic crises finally precipitated by heavy runs on the pound. People are asking themselves whether the long-awaited has been reached and whether the brief moments of fall before catastrophe are even now ticking.

ch misgivings arise from a reading interpretation of the present economic problems combined with a recollection of the characteristic financial dramas of the 1950s and 1960s. Those flurries in the foreign exchange market threaten at worst some downward movement in the pound's fixed exchange rate. The problem of the 1970s is rent. The pound is no longer a mere party on the rate and is on the reserves. What is at stake now is something far more serious than a devaluation of the pound, namely an inflation of the currency as a medium of exchange and, if the collapse of the whole of our postwar prosperity is threatened, a parliamentary government. Its threat does not derive from any external cause, but from the culmination of nearly a decade of trying to pay more than we are really getting while relying upon inflation to restore the necessary balance between income and out-

put, between supply and demand. We have exploited what economists call "money illusion" to the full; and now the people have caught on.

Full employment cannot for much longer be maintained by printing money to pay inflated prices. Working people now demand that inflation should be allowed for in determining their pay. There comes a point when the authorities can no longer inflate faster than people expect; and that is the only way to maintain full employment when pay settlements are running ahead of increases in productivity.

The problems of higher oil prices, of the associated trade deficit and of the reinvestment of the surplus of the oil-producing countries are by comparison technical problems requiring capable of technical solutions. It would be a different matter if the oil producers declined to supply the oil at all or if they wanted to spend their surpluses on importing the current output of the western economies, including Britain's.

If the oil deliveries ceased at all abruptly, the western economies would literally and figuratively seize up. If the oil producers spent their oil revenues, the oil consumers would have to refrain from themselves consuming that part of their own output which the oil producers wanted to buy; and that would involve a significant, though once-and-for-all, adjustment downwards in standards of living in the oil-consuming countries.

But at present the oil producers are delivering the oil and seem to wish—or be able—to spend a small fraction of their oil revenues. In that event, since the

oil is paid for in the IOUs of the oil-consuming countries, the oil producers' surpluses cannot but be lent back to the oil consumers.

Provided that the Governments of the oil-consuming countries run budget deficits broadly equivalent to their proportionate share in the collective oil deficit of the oil-consuming countries and that the surpluses of the oil-producing countries are directly lent to the Governments of the oil-consuming countries, the world and national economies can remain in equilibrium. It may also be necessary to arrange among themselves to recycle any maldistribution of the oil producers' surplus funds so that they match the pattern of the deficits of the oil-consuming countries.

This last is essentially the purpose of Dr Kissinger's excellent scheme for mutual guarantees through the mechanism of the OECD. Given these conditions, which are likely to be fulfilled sooner rather than later, there is no way in the short-to-medium term that the oil deficits or the management of the surplus funds of the oil producers can cause catastrophe in the western economies.

The sterling crisis which would be the kind which stemmed either from an internal collapse of the currency or from gross overstimulation of spending in the home economy. In either case the fault and the remedy would lie with ourselves; and there would be, as there is, no justification for making either bogymen or scapegoats out of foreigners in general or oil producers in particular.

NEW PROGRESS IN RHODESIA

swift removal of the last-mentioned blockage which halted the negotiations in Lusaka a week is a clear enough sign that the Rhodesian settlement is a rough-hewn by powerful leaders. President Kaunda has moved decisively to the hardliners among the Rhodesians to forget the land for immediate majority as the basis of the constitutional conference which is the condition for calling off their dogs. Mr Vorster's hand is to be seen in Mr Smith's prompt acceptance of the African proposal, and the markedly conciliatory tone of his announcement yesterday.

he settlement in detail will be to be shaped by black and white Rhodesian leaders, but in respective backers—for that is the situation is amounting to a determination to keep them together. That is the real reason that the two sides will be shepherded or even bullied towards sensible compromises. Her continuing sanction of the repudiated by those on whom they depend for the sinews of war. While Dr Kaunda and Mr Vorster see eye to eye the hope settlement will endure.

the Africans—both the nationalists and the militants and others who influence them outside, have now, after all, what they have long demanded: a constitutional conference with all parties present—of course including Britain when invited. Mr Smith has also got, or getting, what he has held essential to progress: the cessation of terrorism. There is still some uncertainty over the timing of this, the Africans await a date for talks. Their mistrust should disappear as the detainees, held only because (it was alleged) they ingested violence, emerge from detention. Mr Nkomo and the Rev dabanihi Sithole are already seen. Mr Smith has accepted the unthinkable in agreeing that is government will sit down with these men as equals, and that

"normal political activity" will be permitted. In other words the new grouping or party that incorporates Zanu and Zapu, is legal. The next stage is to work out how and where the conference begins and its ground rules.

When Mr Smith was negotiating with British governments, the difficulty was to find a formula which a fair-minded outsider could say was in accord with Britain's five principles—notably "unimpeded advance to majority rule". Now the problem moves away from "whether" to "how" and "when". After the Portuguese settlement with Frelimo, the Africans are bound to want a rapid advance to black rule, certainly well within Mr Smith's lifetime. Nor will they willingly sign a settlement which leaves an interim white-dominated government in power in an independent Rhodesia, even for a few years, without guarantees that it cannot repudiate. They will be hard to budge from the slogan "No Independence Before Majority Rule".

On his side, Mr Smith's tactics are to be discerned in his promise in the whites that Rhodesia's "standards" of civilization will not be deviated from. Nobody has seen these standards defined—in not a few respects it can be shown that white standards are both double standards and low standards in public life. If this slogan means that educated Africans lack the standards to administer the civil service, or provide MPs at a level at least equal to that of Rhodesian Front backbenchers, Mr Smith will have to be persuaded otherwise. He has however a hand that he knows how to play slowly, as has been seen, and the unity of Zanu and Zapu has yet to be tested.

The probability is that Dr Kaunda and Mr Vorster are agreed that an orderly and rapid progress to majority rule is necessary in both their countries' vital interests, and that the risks of a racial war must be defused. They cannot mastermind the Rhodesian conference where the risk of failure will be present.

The important first step is that Rhodesians have faced the inevitable and Mr Nkomo and Mr Sithole join Bishop Muzorewa at the table as equals of the white ministers.

Mr Callaghan will no doubt learn more about how the conference is to be conducted and how Britain can help when he visits Africa in the new year. It would seem best for it to be held in Rhodesia where President Kaunda and Mr Vorster can most easily exert a benign influence and keep informed. At least in the early stages, London is too far from the scene. It is true that the Pearce Commission showed the dangers of overheating in Rhodesian political discussions, where the Africans have so long been inhibited.

Ways can surely be found to ensure calm. The Nationalists have a strong incentive to curb disorder in order to ensure that the South African police can depart in accordance with Mr Vorster's conditions. The whites, for all the extremist comments by Mr Harper and Mr Idonsha, have seen the writing on the wall in Mozambique, and Mr Smith no doubt knows how to let their predicament sink in to preserve his leadership—though he must reckon on trouble in the front sooner or later.

In the final stages, Britain has to formalize the agreement into law, and this requires an independence conference in the normal colonial sense of the word. Until then Britain holds a watching brief. Mr Callaghan may need an observer in Salisbury again. Merely to note such points is to measure the extraordinary change in Rhodesia in months, even weeks. If the sanctions that have enforced this change are not those that Britain applied in 1965, they do at least assure the validity of the new realism among Rhodesians black and white. There may be crises ahead, but there can be no going back to immobilism.

Women in London Transport

From Mr Ralph Bennett
It is to be hoped that the remarks of Baroness Seear—asked to your report (December 5) in a House of Lords debate on urban transport—will not obscure the extremely important contribution which women have been making for many years to the operation of London Transport's bus and Underground services. A large number are employed in a wide range of jobs.

The broadening of the scope of their employment is under constant review, and one of the points in London Transport's nine-point plan for improving pay and conditions of its staff announced recently in a year ago was greater flexibility in the use of labour, including the employment of women "in grades now restricted to men". As a result of the agreement of a delegate conference of London busmen, the way is now open for women to drive London's buses. It was decided, after subsequent consultations with the busmen's union, that existing London Transport staff should be given the first opportunity to volunteer and train as bus drivers. Some have already qualified; others are in training or awaiting their turn for training. We expect to be in a position to invite women applicants from outside London Transport to the early part of next year. This, however, will be on a full-time basis.

The training of bus drivers is costly and time-consuming, and we do not believe we should be tied—particularly by the present pressure on our training facilities arising from improved recruitment—in deploying any of these facilities purely for women part-timers, as Lady Seear is reported to have suggested.

On the Underground a large number of women already hold jobs as station and booking office staff and agreement has now been reached in principle with the rail unions on equality of opportunity for women on the Underground generally. A joint body comprising representatives of the unions and management will be looking urgently at the problems of implementation. Yours faithfully, RALPH BENNETT, Deputy Chairman, London Transport, 55 Broadway, Westminster, SW1. December 5.

The case for the Arts

From Mr John Harrison
Sir, You say of the Arts in your leader today (December 9) that they do not have an easy case to argue in hard times. They save no lives, they relieve no hardship, they make no direct contribution to the balance of payments. Even as a skittle knock down that sounds to me rather hollow. One thought that it was by now well established that a high percentage of overseas visitors were

drawn to London by its theatre and music, to Stratford and Edinburgh for their festivals, and this (together with the good will from tourists abroad by prospect and other companies) must have some effect on the balance of payments. Many countries live by tourism alone. We have little sunshine to offer, but much that is civilized, so long as we do not trade it away for a subsidy on cheese.

"They relieve no hardship." Nor much space in a letter to the Editor to define "hardship". It is a known fact that in Eastern Europe theatres and opera houses are a welcome relief from overcrowded living conditions, and we are rapidly approaching the same state.

"Save no lives." I should have thought many a life has been made more worth living by the discovery of music, theatre and the visual arts and the social activities they bring in their wake. At what point one actually jumps off the edge must be defined by different levels of tolerance in individuals—but this is a subject for development at a length that would forbid publication. Of course the word "Arts" itself is a terrible bugaboo. I prefer "recreation", a word that can be looked into closely and still retains its dignity. And I would suggest that play and concert going are here analogous to the use of the public library and swimming baths or a walk on the Pennine Way. Yours faithfully, JOHN HARRISON, Director, Leeds Playhouse, Calverley Street, Leeds. December 9.

Church remarriage of divorcees

From the Bishop of Kingston
Sir, Heather Jenner, in commenting on the policy in this diocese concerning the remarriage in church of divorced persons, draws attention to the undoubted fact that a number of serious minded and sincere people, especially young people, live together without getting married because they fear that they might not be able to keep their marriage vows which include the promise "to forsake all others so long as ye both shall live". She expresses the hope that this vow might be modified.

This kind of cohabitation involves a commitment which, although not unconditional, is heartfelt and serious; and it can, to my knowledge, lead on to the full commitment of marriage.

None the less it is not possible to alter this marriage vow, not because of what the Church thinks, but because of the nature of marriage itself. True marriage involves the free and open consent of a couple to take each other without reserve as husband and wife. For public cognizance of a marriage, the vows must of course be taken before witnesses. It is these vows (made, of course, with a proper intention which brings into being a marriage) that make another person without reserve involves taking him or her for life; and so the vow cannot be altered. Marriage is not only the expression of love, but also of faith and hope.

Those of us in the Church of England (to company with the Orthodox churches and the mainstream Protestant churches) who believe that it is right in certain circumstances to permit remarriage in church wish not to weaken marriage but to strengthen it.

The Finer Committee reckoned that in future between 15 per cent and 25 per cent of marriages are likely to end in irretrievable breakdown; and the object of remarriage in church of those who have suffered from such disaster is to help them to begin again and to make a real marriage that does indeed last "until death us do part". Without in any way passing judgment on those who cannot make this life-long commitment (and it is not time for oneself fully to anything or anybody seems to be a sad characteristic of our age), it would be a denial of the true nature of marriage to modify the vows as Heather Jenner suggests.

Yours faithfully, HUGH KINGSTON, Vicar, Widge, 23, Bellerose Road, Wandsworth Common, SW17.

Canterbury Cathedral

From the Reverend J. E. James
Sir, I read your report (December 6) of the appeal being launched for £3.5m for the restoration of Canterbury Cathedral with some misgivings. I have been one to believe that the need to maintain our ancient buildings, nor do I undervalue the spiritual importance of churches, but in view of the serious financial plight of many of the parish clergy (a plight not likely to improve in the future), it is not time for the Church to give serious thought to its priorities?

Is it not time also for the Church to allow the State to assume its responsibility for bearing some of the cost of restoring our great Cathedrals which are the property of the Church of England, belong in a real sense to the whole nation. Yours faithfully, J. E. JAMES, The Rectory, Woodstock, Oxford.

From the Rev J. V. Stewart
Sir, I am not at all in disfavour of Canterbury Cathedral. In reading, however, of the appeal under very high sponsorship for £3.5 million for its restoration, and the enormous cost in perpetuity of its musical foundation, I did wonder if I might seek a very small space in your columns to beseech equivalent sponsorship for some other equally good cultural training fund in Northern England. £3,500 (a thousandth part of the Canterbury total).

I have been trying to find this money for over a year with small success. North Madagascar is very fertile, and a hungry world, but the cultivation could mean life and health for many people. Or else (b) for the giving of £3.50 (a millionth part) to the families of Anglican parochial clergy this Christmas. There are some such families which I know where such a sum would make a real difference. But I am not in disfavour of Canterbury Cathedral. Yours sincerely, JOHN STEWART, Sibford Gower Vicarage, Sibford Gower, Oxfordshire.

Insurance and industry

From Mr W. C. Harris
Sir, May I add a word in support of Mr Macdonald's (Chairman, British Insurance Association) letter (December 5)? Not only did Mr Easley misstate the fact of the insurance companies' financial involvement in British industry but he also ignored the fact that the insurance companies' contribution to PFI (Finance for Industry) derived from a voluntary City initiative and not from Government pressure. Yours faithfully, W. C. HARRIS, Director and Chief General Manager, Phoenix Assurance Company Ltd, Phoenix House, 45 King William Street, EC4.

Threat to women's hospital

From Mr Joan Scott
Sir, Could not the staff of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital migrate to the Liverpool Road annex of the Royal Free Hospital when the latter's maternity services are re-based at Hampstead? There is dismay in South Kensington at the great loss to the neighbourhood of these facilities are withdrawn. This might be a solution to both problems. Yours faithfully, JOAN SCOTT, 3 Church Garth, N19.

Britain and the Middle East

From Dr Adrian Zidman

Sir, A full-page advertisement headed "Should Britain Come First?" appearing in The Times on Wednesday raises an important issue of principle. What is the implication of its strong condemnation of charity donations by British citizens to Israel, based on the assertion that these moneys otherwise would be spent here "to build more homes, to improve social services, to help pensioners"? These charity payments go towards the amelioration of the lot of Jewish refugees from Arab lands (who, it is not generally realized, constitute a majority of Israel's Jewish population) as well as the absorption of the victims of persecution in Russia. It seriously suggested that charity payments abroad should cease, be they for Jewish refugees to Israel, for Oxfam, Christian Aid, etc. in the desperate hope that this might narrow the economic difficulties? (And, of course, it wouldn't.)

While such a narrowly selfish attitude is unacceptable to citizens of this country, it evidently commends itself to those Arab leaders whose vicious use of the oil weapon and accumulation of vast oil revenues continues to inflict economic harm on the people of this country—including the homeless, the users of the social services and pensioners. The cynical disregard for the immediate welfare of the Palestinian refugees, whose plight could so easily be improved if just a minute proportion of Arab oil moneys were put to this purpose, contrasts with the ready availability of finance for the atrocities perpetrated by Arab terrorists against innocent Israeli citizens. Yours faithfully, ADRIAN ZIDMAN, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, E1.

From Mr Peter Lewis
Sir, The advertisement you publish on behalf of the Committee for Justice in the Middle East has disturbing ramifications.

It would be of course be undignified to answer its implications that British law is financing indiscriminate bombing of refugees under the guise

of charity, and at the expense of the Inland Revenue.

There is nothing laudicrously new in this piece of propaganda, which stands squarely in succession to the works of Dr Goebbels and others. Understandably, the Jewish community is sensitive to and resentful of suggestions that its loyalty to Great Britain is somehow attenuated by the close relationship which some of its members have with Israel. But there is a wider issue involved also. In the present world crisis democracies are beginning to fray at their edges, struggling to control the elements which seek their destruction without resorting to the gun. Scapegoat politics—and anti-Semitism in particular—are in our century the first obvious symptoms of a rotting society. It will be no harder for the extremists in our own midst to strike the chords of bitterness and prejudice than it will be for those who seek to promote a just cause by means of gutter tactics.

Many Jews, and many Gentiles too, find it inconceivable that Mr Astar has acquired a hero's status. If the advertisement to which I referred attracts sympathetic attention we must all realize, before it is too late, the road we are taking, and remember where it leads. Yours faithfully, PETER LEWIS, 101 Hornsey Lane, N6.

From Mr A. R. Kelsey
Sir, I was most upset and disturbed to read the advertisement on behalf of the Committee for Justice for the Middle East.

More disturbing, however, is the fact that a newspaper of your standing should accept and print what can only be considered as anti-Semitic propaganda. Yours faithfully, A. R. KELSEY, 44 Welbeck Street, W1.

From Mr Leonard Merson

Sir, Your leader today (December 12) is sheer hypocrisy. One advert is political, the other is racial, and you have neither the decency nor the dignity to recognize the difference.

LEONARD A. MERSON, 14 Silverthorn Drive, Levensay Park, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

Northern Ireland

From Miss Joan Maynard, Labour MP for Sheffield, Brightside, and others

Sir, In our view we are poised at a moment of great danger in our relations with Ireland. Unless a new and radically different approach is made by the people and government of this country, the smouldering civil war that has existed ever since the six county province was set up in 1921 will erupt into a full-scale civil war. If a solution is not found quickly it is logical for this to happen. As Algeria divided France, as its African territories divided Portugal, and as Vietnam divided America, the conflict over Ireland will divide Britain.

We have no doubt that at present the Government is not facing the issue. The speed with which Parliament passed the Protection against Terrorism Act, can be contrasted with the debate a week later on Ireland in the House of Commons. Mr Rees spoke of the forthcoming convention as a way to find the solution which was eluding the Government. But with the exception of only a few MPs, no one had any doubt that we are drifting towards a situation in which we will be confronted at the convention with the intransigent demands of the Ulster Unionists. The "solution" will be a choice between handing over power to Messrs Paisley, West and Craig, or continuing with direct rule. Either way means continued violence and repression.

What the Government refuses to recognize is a truth that is basic to any real solution. The violence in Northern Ireland is the result of repression. For the majority of the people of Ireland, rule by the British army is no more tolerable in the long run, than Stormont rule was, and the Emergency Provisions Act, which isolates people without money, is no more tolerable than the Special Powers Act that preceded it. In every one of the 53 years since the province was created, there has been repressive legislation in force.

'Duke of Orleans's mistress'

From Mr John Roe
Sir, In identifying a qualified male chauvinism in Delacroix's "The Duke of Orleans showing his Mistress to the Duke of Burgundy", Mr Paul Overy (the Arts, December 3), has not observed an important detail in the relationship between the figures in the painting. He says: "His mistress lies naked on the bed and her lover has drawn up the sheet so that it hides her face and the top part of her body, but leaves her exposed from the waist downwards." The Duke of Burgundy is standing beside the bed inspecting what is revealed with obvious approval.

What he does not tell us is that the lady, as well as being the Duke of Orleans's mistress, is the Duke of Burgundy's wife. Hence the necessity of concealing her face. The piquant irony of these circumstances, which must count for something in interpreting the attitudes of the two men vis-à-vis the girl and each other (to say nothing of her complicity), is not quite brought out by Mr Overy's description: "Nevertheless he reveals a sympathetic tenderness in the way he shows the girl clutching her arms around herself in embarrassment or shame underneath the sheet." Naturally! "For we see what the Duke of Burgundy does not see. . . ."

A version of the story, explaining how the trio got themselves into the situation, is set them in, can be found in Rabelais's *An Unfinished View of Evreux*. Yours faithfully, JOHN ROE, Vanbrugh College, University of York, Heslington, York.

It is with this that we in Britain are identified.

The second basic truth is that the people of Ireland must decide their own future. There can be no more British-made solutions.

The real problem to which we have to address ourselves is not how to cling to power in Ireland, but how to relinquish it. Only a foolish person would say that is so easy a matter. But the fact that it is going to be complex to negotiate our withdrawal should not be used as an excuse for the continued policy of drift.

A government that acts on principle and is forthright will win the support of the people of this country, as well as of the Irish people. A great deal can be done to persuade the Unionists of the six counties to think again, when they talk of reprisals and seek to intimidate those who question what they believe to be their right to rule. Their present attitude on finding a political structure that does not depend on British arms and money to make it viable. The important thing is that the Government should make clear its intention to make this decision before the convention is held.

This we believe is what must be done. A new chapter must be opened in our relations with Ireland. We must respect the rights of the people of Ireland as a sovereign nation within the terms of the United Nations Charter. We should begin by ending internment without trial. It is urgent that the people of Britain show themselves able and willing to make this kind of approach, rather than to descend to a vortex of more violence and more repression. I invite all of us to those who agree with me to write to us at the House of Commons and we undertake to respond. Yours sincerely, JOAN MAYNARD, STAIN THORNE, MALDEN COLLEGE, SURREY, EDDIE LOYDEN, MARTIN FLANNERY, JEFF ROOKER, House of Commons.

King of the Cocos

From the Reverend A. G. Macintyre
Sir, Your report (The Times, November 26) "UN call to break the power of the 'King of the Cocos'" will have been read with astonishment and dismay by those who had the honour and happiness to serve in His Majesty's Forces in the Cocos-Keeling Islands in 1945.

The inhabitants then struck us as among the most contented people in the world. The old, the children and the sick were cared for by the community. There was work for all the able-bodied and a free house for every family. Every adult was a member of Parliament (the weekly "court" held in the open air). There was no money, and hence no currency or inflation problems. Most of our medical diseases (including VD) were unknown. There were no prisons, no police, no locks on doors, no strikes, no violence.

It was a harmonious multi-racial society. The part played by the Clunies Ross family was a skilful balancing of the islands' economy—copra exports paying for imports of food which this coral atoll could not grow. The system could be described as benevolent paternalism or as practical communism—"from each according to his ability; to each according to his need."

If in the past 30 years this idyllic community has really lapsed into colonialism, neo-feudalism, and slavery, this is a great pity. But the imposition of the Australian dollar, compulsory education for foreigners, and conformity to the present way of life of the rest of the world would be a tragedy. Yours, etc. ANGUS MACINTYRE, Harborne Vicarage, Old Church Road, Harborne, Birmingham.

Closed shop for engineers

From Mr Denis Swamey
Sir, The adverse effects of a restoration of the "closed-shop" will extend far beyond the newspaper industry.

Engineers remember that an attempt to force professional and executive engineers employed by C. A. Parsons into membership of TASS was defeated only by a combination of action through the courts and by the introduction of safeguards contained in the Industrial Relations Act 1971.

The deletion of the so-called "Lever" amendments from the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act is likely to create the opportunity for widespread extensions of the "closed-shop". All that will stand between the professional and executive engineers and compulsory membership of a union with a closed-shop policy is either the willingness and ability of employers to say "no" or their own willingness to be tough and give stronger backing to their own professional associations.

The right of professional groups to belong to an organization of their own devising is more than an issue of freedom of choice. The engineering profession will not be able to attract suitable recruits unless its general standing is improved. The President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers said in his recent Presidential Lecture "I believe that the reluctance of really bright six-formers to enter the technically based professions and engineering in particular, is one of the most serious long-term problems we face". He also referred with approval to the statement of a previous President which included the words "a technologically based enterprise which fails to retain adequate technological expertise is foredoomed to eventual failure, whatever the brilliance of its management".

One of the ways of improving the profession is to ensure that it has a stronger voice in industry and in public affairs. To do so it needs to organize itself. It should work out a harmonious working relationship with craft-based unions and with multi-disciplinary unions, but it should not be absorbed by them and thereby lose all identity.

It is not too late for the Government's amending Bill to be modified. Yours faithfully, DENIS SWAMEY, General Secretary, Institution of Professional Supervisory & Executive Engineers, Wix Hill House, West Horsley, Surrey.

Conserving museum pieces

From Mr Max Hebditch
Sir, Graham Thomas (Letters, December 6) rightly draws attention to the need to raise money for rescue archaeology from developers themselves. This is especially important when the Government's strict central and local Government expenditure. However, it is not enough that there should be adequate funds to record the evidence from the ground: it is equally important that the evidence should be available to meet the ongoing need to conserve the resulting flood of antiquities and records.

This association is only too aware that most museums do not have the buildings, laboratories and staff to do this properly. It is also aware that the response of the Department of Education and Science to this problem is not encouraging. In the current financial year the Department of the Environment has allocated £1,000,000 in grants towards excavation and publication. A similar figure is needed by museums to meet the burden this thrusts upon them.

The help offered by the Department of Education and Science this year has been an increased grant to Area Museum Service (each serving groups of autonomous museums) and thus indirectly their conservation laboratories; but these are not adequate even to meet the existing needs of museums. Consideration is also being given to providing financial assistance from central Government funds to projects designed to improve facilities at museums of more than local significance; but this will not pay for extra rented accommodation needed now. In fact, Government assistance falls well short of the recommendations of the Wright Committee on Museums, which reported in February 1973.

Until museums can accept, conserve and store the products of excavation, a great archive of national history must inevitably disappear. If developers are to be able to help finance rescue archaeology then it may be possible not only to recover the past but also to preserve it for the future. Yours faithfully, MAX HEBDITCH, Chairman, Information Committee of The Museums Association, 87 Charlotte Street, W1.

Honey from road verges

From Mr Anthony Armstrong
Sir, Miss Kenyon in her letter (December 3) says that the answer to "the absence of bees among white clover on the A1 might be the absence of hives within flying capacity when loaded".

Would it not be more correct to say when unloaded, because no bees could then ever reach the clover? There could easily be hives within the laden and unladen range of bees and this would result in a very contrary situation. Far from an absence of bees at the A1 site there would be an increased number due to bees circling the clover field trying to abed enough load to make their return journey possible. That would also be other sturdier bees who had misguidedly taken off with full load and had to force-lane before completing their mission. A1 this would result in any noticeable absence of bees being at the A1 end rather than the other way round. Yours faithfully, ANTHONY ARMSTRONG, Sadlers End, Three Gates Lane, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

RIMA

German expansion measures boost industry £303m for jobs and investment

By Dan van der Vat

Germany's government announced a series of measures aimed at expanding the economy without inflation. The purpose of the programme, outlined after two days of discussions by Dr. Engel, the Minister of Finance, and Dr. Hans Friedrichs, Minister of Economics, is to achieve a further strengthening of economic activity. The measures could be seen as largely monetary in nature, but they are taken by the government in its agencies in recent years.

The main measures announced today are a DM1,130m (£196m) boost for investment in industry, particularly supply and construction, and a DM600m (about £100m) to counter unemployment.

The maximum period of financial compensation for workers is to be doubled to two years. The measures planned in the federal budget are to be as far as possible in the half of the year. The measures will see to it that investment projects can be carried out in the Finance Ministry's plans. State and local governments will be asked to adopt similar measures.

The measures are expected to provide finance for the construction of about 20,000 jobs, about DM3,500m (about £550m) of the Federal Government's product of a 10 per

cent anti-inflation tax surcharge over the year ending June 30, 1975.

The Government's investment boost will take the form of a 7.5 per cent allowance on investments in capital goods and buildings made between the first of this month and the end of the first half of the coming year, for goods to be delivered or installed by July 1, 1975, and buildings to be completed by July 1, 1977. Investments in savings energy will however have no time limits set on them to qualify for the allowance.

Tax advantages for owner-occupiers are to be extended to further ease the plight of West Germany's building industry, which has suffered many setbacks and redundancies this year.

Investment in new small and medium-sized businesses is also to be encouraged by means of a separately financed programme worth more than DM1,000m. This money will come not from the budget but from separate reconstruction funds.

The DM600m to be spent on countering unemployment is expected to produce 20,000 jobs.

Employers who hire an unemployed man before May 1, 1975, in a non-temporary job can claim 60 per cent of his gross wage for the first six months, to be paid in advance on appointment. This measure is expected to produce 90,000 jobs. Unemployed workers who find a new job by moving to a new

district can claim a movement allowance of up to DM600 for a single move. The Government hopes to see another 200,000 reemployed in this way.

At November 30 this year nearly 800,000 were out of work in West Germany and another 461,000 on short-time. Both figures are expected to increase for the next two or three months.

But the main government measure which is likely to improve the economic outlook for next year is the tax reform plan decided on earlier this year, which is to take effect on January 1. This and the accompanying increases in children's allowances will put DM14,000m extra spending power into people's pockets over the coming year and should have a considerable effect on the labour market.

The Government says its main aim is to counter economic decline and to achieve in the course of next year a solid upswing in internal demand, without accelerating the country's relatively very low rate of inflation, now 6.5 per cent a year. It sees this as leading in 1975 to a real improvement on the labour market, and a real increase in production. Improving productivity is expected to allow the anti-inflation effort to progress further.

Finally the Bonn government believes its internal reflation will help world economy and reduce its own balance of payments surplus.

New setback for UK steel output last month

By Peter Hill

Britain's steel output, which has been depressed throughout the year, fell further last month after improving slightly in October.

Figures issued jointly last night by the British Steel Corporation and the British Independent Steel Producers Association showed that average weekly production last month at 448,200 tonnes was 2.1 per cent lower than the previous month and more than 18 per cent less than in the corresponding month of 1973.

Over the first 11 months of this year average weekly output amounted to 433,300 tonnes some 16.6 per cent less than in the same period of last year.

The dismal production figures, particularly from the British Steel Corporation where output has been affected by shortages of coal and scrap in the earlier part of the year and damaging industrial disputes, have serious implications.

The failure of the BSC to meet the buoyant demand after the end of the three-day week has led to a substantial increase in imports and produced an adverse trade balance.

There has been a huge surge in iron and steel imports from Japan and other sources, and because of the continuing shortage the Government is being asked to approve an extension of temporary import duty exemptions for a variety of iron and steel products.

The poor November output was influenced by operational difficulties at the BSC's Corby works, where although one re-lined blast furnace was brought back into operation, steel production continues to be severely affected.

Industrial disputes have had a particularly damaging effect and are likely to have cost the BSC around 800,000 tonnes in lost production this year.

The Department of Industry provided an indication of the downturn in figures published last night for the third quarter. Consumption over the three months was 6 per cent lower than in the previous quarter with estimated consumption, after seasonal adjustments, amounting to 4.3m tonnes.

In the third quarter stocks fell by about 30,000 tonnes with consumers' stocks falling by 76,000 tonnes and those of merchant steel by about 40,000 tonnes. Stocks held by consumers and merchants now represent 17 weeks' use.

Price panel criticized on petrol rise delays

Oil companies last night accused the Price Commission of using procedural technicalities to delay petrol price increases.

The Commission was made following the publication of the November list of price increase rejections and modifications.

Six of the major oil companies—BP, Esso Petroleum, Gulf Oil, Shell, Mobil Oil, and Agip—were named among the large companies whose price increases were rejected. The applications were for rises ranging between 20 per cent (Mobil) and 34 per cent (Agip). This was the second successive month that both Shell and Agip had faced rejection notices.

Last night several of the companies while declining to be identified were outspoken in their criticism of the Commission. They claimed it was trying, by technical delays, to ensure that there was no further price rise soon after the petrol price increases which followed the VAT adjustment in the November Budget.

The Price Commission pointed out in reply that the rejections had been based on failure to comply with pre-notification procedures.

The latest list does not refer to current applications from the oil companies. These are still being processed and, because the whole increase will be loaded on petrol, are expected to push prices up by 8p a gallon early next year.

Last month the Price Commission rejected 23 notifications from large and medium-sized manufacturing and service companies. Apart from the oil groups, these included the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which had a 7.06 per cent increase on sterilized creams turned down, and 30.60 per cent application on methanol was rejected; and National Car Parks, whose bid for a 3.08 per cent increase in parking tariffs was disallowed.

In addition to the rejections, there were another 19 cases of companies which withdrew their notifications, and a further 56 companies which modified the extent of their increases. Among the withdrawing were Becaam Foods, which had intended to raise the price of Ribena by 16.36 per cent; and Viota Foods, which withdrew an intended 7.15 per cent increase in cake and dessert mixes.

Since the beginning of Phase Three the Commission has rejected a total of 1,233 notifications, and reduced the extent of a further 781. The Commission said last night that 392 notifications were withdrawn during this period.

Price controls are also dogged out as a principal cause of the loss of profitability. The Commission notes that in other countries the recent rapid increase in costs has been passed on more quickly in higher prices.

However, it also acknowledges that the financial difficulties of industry will be very substantially eased by the tax relief announced in the Budget and

Saudi Arabia stepping up spending in UK despite sterling switch

By Melvyn Westlake

Investment in Britain by Saudi Arabia appears to have been increasing in recent weeks. In spite of the apparent "desire" by the Saudi government not to receive further oil royalty payments in sterling, there is no sign of any change of investment policy. Mr. Denis Healey, the Chancellor, is believed to have been given assurances on this point during his recent three-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

This will help to calm currency on the foreign exchange markets since reports first began to circulate of the phasing out of sterling for royalty payments. Fears that this would result in a reduced flow of Middle East investment into London have contributed in a sharp fall in the value of the pound in recent days.

The investment policy of the Saudi government was believed to have been discussed at considerable length during Mr. Healey's visit. The Saudis made clear that they wished to expand trade and industrial co-operation with Britain in pursuit of their own rapid programme of industrialization and development.

With a new five-year economic plan to be announced by Saudi Arabia next year, increased industrial co-operation could provide a major boost in British exports.

A strong wish for closer ties in education was also believed

in have been expressed to Mr. Healey.

A high-level committee is being set up to prepare a programme for closer co-operation in these areas and permanent machinery is envisaged to monitor progress.

Official British sources said yesterday that the Saudi government had expressed the hope that relations between the two countries would not be affected by the reports this week that sterling would no longer be used for the royalty payments. The Saudis believe that what matters is the investment policy of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority and not what currencies were received for oil.

The official sources also said that Saudi Arabia was in favour in principle of the proposal for a new International Monetary Fund borrowing facility.

Saudi Arabia thus appears to be giving its backing to Mr. Healey's own idea of increasing the leading power of the IMF through a new oil facility which would be financed by the oil surplus funds.

Talks between Mr. Healey and Saudi government officials were said to have been extremely friendly, with King Faisal setting the pattern. Mr. Healey also had discussions with Mr. Musa'id, the Finance Minister, and with the head of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority.

The whole trend of these discussions was said to reflect Saudi desires for a much closer relationship with Britain.

Distillers cutting back whisky production

By Anthony Rowley

Distillers Company is to reduce its level of Scotch whisky distillation in 1975. The group has been unable to raise "substantial long-term funds" to finance investments in buildings, plant and additional Scotch whisky stocks.

"We are not prepared to use short-term money at very high interest rates for long-term schemes," a spokesman said yesterday. "We wanted substantial long-term funds but the City has not been able to provide them."

Distillers stressed, however, that it has ample stocks to meet projected home and overseas demand. "We expect to sell more next year, but we are going to make less because we have ample stocks," the spokesman said.

Distillers' whisky brands include Black & White, White Horse, Johnnie Walker, Haig, Dewar and V&S 69. The spokesman said the cutback in 1975 production would be a "one-off" measure. In future years—whisky is normally matured for several years before sale—unless the cutback had to be extended beyond 1975, and then it would depend upon demand. Meanwhile, Distillers is still seeking suitable sources of finance for stock building.

There were no plans for redundancies as a result of the cutback, which would save Distillers money in replacing stocks at a time of high grain, energy and warehousing costs. The extent of the cutback was not revealed.

Distillers yesterday announced pre-tax profits of £44.1m for the six months up to September 30—an increase of 17 per cent on the corresponding period of last year. Sales increased by 21 per cent to £22m in the same period. This was for all the group's products, including gin, vodka and Pimm's as well as whisky.

Scotch whisky and gin sales were "buoyant" during the period, with particularly large shipments to the United States. In advance of the threatened dock strike there, Distillers exports are expected to rise this year. Those in the United Kingdom are likely to suffer through price controls, and overall profits this year will be about the same as for last year.

Last week Distillers announced that it had notified the Price Commission of increases which it intends to make in the price of whisky, gin and vodka from January 1. Per case, the net amounts are 80p for Scotch, 40p for gin and 52p for vodka. Distillers also said yesterday that since the end of the first half of this financial year deliveries had been restricted by industrial action in its own plants and elsewhere, as well as by a shortage of bottles and other packaging materials. These problems had restricted the benefit obtained from export price increases made earlier this year. Distillers shares fell 8p to 63p on the Stock Exchange yesterday.

Financial Editor, page 13

Land ve to £15m

Thousands of workers at Leyland's body and assembly plants were given a 15p increase yesterday, which they said would be a "drift" to save £15m.

Derek Whitaker, managing director of the body and assembly division, has set the increase cash flow and jobs. He explained his plan in a letter to all 10 workers at the Cowley Birmingham plants.

The increase, which became available to the workers, will be channelled into automation work, he says, will not alter the obligation of each plant to pay its

Minister denies move to drop petroleum tax

By Geoffrey Browning

Rumours that the Government was having second thoughts on the petroleum tax proposed in the Oil Taxation Bill were scotched by Mr. Robert Sheldon, Minister of State for the Treasury, at the first meeting of the Commons committee considering the Bill yesterday.

Sheldon had arisen because of a Government motion, moved by Mr. Sheldon, that consideration of that part of the Bill dealing with the tax be postponed until after Christmas. He explained that consultations were still going on with the oil companies and said that the committee should start by considering other parts of the Bill.

Mr. Patrick Jenkin, Opposition spokesman on energy, asked if the Government was now beginning to recognize the "damaging blow to confidence"

which the petroleum revenue tax had caused in the oil industry and if it was aware of the risk that the tax could drive companies away from the Continental Shelf?

Had the Government entirely ruled out a different structure with an excess profits tax on top of corporation tax?

Mr. Sheldon said that discussions with the oil companies were taking longer than expected.

Mr. Jenkin: "Is the Treasury prepared to discuss with the oil companies an excess profits tax?"

Mr. Sheldon said the fundamental aim of the Bill rested on the prior-charge and field-by-field basis of computation. "Within that we are prepared to listen to anything they say," he said. The motion was adjourned until Tuesday.

Another reprieve for oil company profits as Senate kills latest Bill

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Dec. 12—American oil companies have been saved again from the prospect of \$2,000m (about £370m) a year increase in tax.

A pending bill that called for the ending of the oil depletion allowance on January 1 was killed by a 9-4 vote in the rules committee of the Senate. Covering several tax areas including cuts for low income groups, it was defeated because Senators thought that with only 10 days left in the present legislative session, there was no chance that this Bill could have been passed.

The ways and means committee of the House of Representatives has been working on the Bill for more than a year. Cancellation of the oil depletion allowance has gained strong popular support because oil company earnings have advanced

in its present form are not very bright.

Mr. Al Ullman, a Democratic representative from Oregon, who is likely to be chairman of the ways and means committee in the new Congress, said he was doubtful if quick action on a tax Bill was possible next year.

But today's reprieve for the oil companies may have been a costly error, as the ways and means committee through reorganization appears to be turning into a more liberal body. Next year's tax Bill may prove a lot tougher on oil company profits.

All the same, today's defeat represents the thirteenth unsuccessful attempt at abolishing the 22 per cent oil depletion allowance. The first failure was in 1957, after President Truman had signed in late 1956 to end this special tax allowance for oil companies.

& P benefits in Brazil p order

Ships worth £250m for 45, possibly the most valuable shipbuilding contract ever awarded, have been placed by the Brazilian shipyard of Com. a Comercio e Navegacao (C.N.)

The contracts will also provide the United Kingdom shipbuilders Austin & Pickersall a useful cash boost, since the vessels are being built in licence from A. & P.

is in contrast to the lack of contracting left. Yesterday, the Japan Exporters Association announced that last month its 15 ships compared with 40 in the same period of last year.

ore significantly, Japanese firms have failed to secure a large order for the past 12 months, there have been a number of cancellations. With the CCN orders have been by seven shipping lines from part of the 125 ocean-going ships being built by the shipyard as part of the government's recently approved shipbuilding programme. This aims at carrying a greater volume of country's foreign trade in its built and registered in 1975.

Norway modifies proposed levy on offshore earnings

Oslø, Dec. 12—Norway has modified its tax increase proposals to oil companies drilling in the North Sea, an official said today.

Mr. Per Kleppe, Finance Minister, was scheduled to meet oil company representatives today to present a new proposal for taxation of oil earnings.

Although the government did not announce the new tax measures, unofficially it was learnt that the finance ministry had softened its first proposal made a week ago, when it called for taxes of up to 60 per cent on oil production earnings, 80 per cent higher than the 50.8 per cent tax now in effect.—AP-Dow Jones.

Clash over level of N Sea tax

A 40 per cent Petroleum Revenue Tax rate would make most Norwegian offshore fields uneconomical, at a price of \$12 a barrel, Mr. E. E. Monteith, president of the International Energy Bank, said yesterday.

Six out of the 20 largest discoveries made in the North Sea are in this category, including the Argyll, Auk and Montrose fields.

A differing view came from Mr. J. D. Dewhurst, assistant managing director of Burmah Oil. He told a conference organized by the Financial Times that good fields in the North Sea might be able to exist on a 45 per cent revenue tax. But he added that the 65 per cent upper limit tentatively suggested by the Government would kill all investment.

Yamani pledge to peg oil price

Saudi Arabia will not increase the price of its oil even if OPEC decides on another general round of price rises, Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Saudi Arabia's oil minister said yesterday.

The start of a general OPEC conference on pricing was delayed because of the late arrival of Shaikh Yamani. A spokesman said discussions on prices could not proceed with a representative from Saudi Arabia. The discussions are scheduled to continue today.

How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
Admiralty Mtr 3p to 3 1/2p	Ass Port Cement 5p to 6 1/2p
Balbeck & W 3p to 3 1/2p	Aux 15p to 17 1/2p
BLMC 3p to 3 1/2p	Bank of Ireland 16p to 17p
Pisons 1p to 1 1/4p	Broken Hill 4p to 4 1/2p
Clywed 4p to 4 1/2p	Bristol G 4p to 4 1/2p
GEC 1p to 1 1/4p	Britt 8p to 8 1/2p
Hawker Sid 8p to 13p	Distillers 9 1/2p to 10p

Sterling fell by 25 points yesterday to 237.5, a "effective" devaluation of 1.5 per cent.

Gold rose by \$1.75 to \$175.75 a oz yesterday.

SDR's were 1.212150 while SDR's were 0.521916.

Commodities: Sugar futures had an erratic day before finishing 14 to 18 higher. The London daily price was cut another £20 to £440.

Coffee rose between £5 and £7.50 and wool scored gains. Copper lost £3.50 after being nearly £10 down and oil advanced £10. Reuters index fell 8.5 to a new 1974 low of 1,191.5.

Reports pages 27 and 28

Equities abandoned an early rally following the trade figures announcement.

Gift-edged securities had another weak session.

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THE POUND

Bank	Bank
Australia 5 1.81	buys 1.76
Austria Sch 41.78	39.75
Belgium Fr 88.25	85.50
Canada 5 2.33	2.28
Denmark Kr 13.60	13.20
Finland Mkk 8.65	8.40
France Fr 10.55	10.25
Germany DM 5.38	5.60
Greece Dr 73.25	70.50
Hongkong \$ 11.30	10.95
Italy Lt 1,575.00	1,525.00
Japan Yn 720.00	695.00
Netherlands Gld 6.00	5.80
Norway Kr 15.55	15.20
Portugal Esc 59.00	58.75
S Africa Rd 1.78	1.72
Spain Pes 135.50	130.50
Sweden Kr 9.95	9.65
Switzerland Fr 6.20	5.95
US \$ 2.36	2.31
Yugoslavia Dnr 42.50	40.75

Notes for bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank (International) Ltd. Different rates apply to currency business.

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US prices pointer to lower inflation

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Dec 12

Some slowing in the United States rate of inflation was indicated today with the publication of the wholesale price index for November, which showed a gain, on a seasonally adjusted basis, of 1.2 per cent, after a rise of 2.5 per cent in October.

The bureau of Labour Statistics noted that the unadjusted index was now 23.5 per cent up on 12 months ago at 171.9 (1967=100). More significant, however, the compound annual rate of increase on a seasonally adjusted basis from three months ago is now just 16.1 per cent, compared with 28.7 per cent last month and 35.2 per cent in September.

This confirms President Ford's statement to the Business Council last night that early signals now suggested some

weakening in inflation pressures. The President forecast a steady decline in the inflation rate from now on.

Mr Roy Ash, director of the Office of Management and Budget, forecast at a senate budget committee meeting today that the inflation rate in 12 months could be even as low as 7 per cent. He said it was realistic to expect inflation by the end of next year to be in the 7 to 9 per cent range, but he gave warning that real gross national product was likely to go on slipping over the next few quarters, although an upturn in the economy was probable after mid-year.

This forecast is closely in line with one released today by the Business Council, which comprises some 150 chairmen of major American companies. The council suggested that the consumer price index would be rising at an annual rate of around

6 per cent in the final quarter of next year, and the current downward trend of the economy would have run its course by mid-1975 or at the latest by the third quarter.

Unemployment was likely to reach 6.8 per cent to 7 per cent in the second and third quarters of next year and the council forecast that for 1975 as a whole real gnp would probably be down by about 1 per cent on 1974, with the gap in current dollars showing an 8 per cent rise for the year as a whole.

Industrial production is forecast as declining for much of the coming year, but moving up gradually in the latter half, with the council forecasting it to be in line with final 1974 quarter levels by the fourth quarter.

The detailed wholesale price figures show a marked slowing on the food side and a con-

tinuing moderation for industrial commodities. The wholesale food price index for November rose on an adjusted basis by 2.5 per cent, after rising by 5.1 per cent in October.

President Ford said in a speech to the Business Council last night that he would not be diverting policies to any great degree from the fight against inflation, to countering a recession. However, Mr Ash said in testimony this morning that the Administration was now moving nearer a more deflationary stance.

Mr Ash stated that if the downturn in the economy produced lower tax revenues the Administration would not insist on dollar-for-dollar spending cuts to balance the budget.

The Administration was now working on budget revisions with a special view to dealing with the rising unemployment.

Colour TV deliveries down 16pc in October

Deliveries of colour television sets (both British made and imported) to United Kingdom distributors in October totalled 226,000, a 16 per cent decrease compared with October, 1973, the British Radio Equipment Manufacturers' Association said yesterday.

For the first 10 months of the year, at 1,864,000, represents a drop of 18 per cent from the corresponding period of 1973. In this period the share of imported sets fell from 25 per cent to 20 per cent.

Total black-and-white television deliveries for October of 86,000 brought the total for the first 10 months of the year to 697,000, a fall of 43 per cent compared with January-October, 1973.

25 pc decline in gold wares hallmarked

Weight of all the gold wares hallmarked at the London Assay Office during November dropped by precisely 25 per cent compared with the same month of last year to a total of 2,082,332 grams. The number of wares assayed and tested fell even more sharply by 31.6 per cent to 401,035 articles.

Eighteen carat gold (generally used for quality jewellery) recorded a modest gain of 3.3 per cent over last year to a total weight of 367,107 grams, while the weight of 9 carat gold (normally used for the more popular, mass-produced jewellery) declined by 29.9 per cent to 1,620,057 grams.

Carpet exports up

Britain's carpet exports over the first nine months of this year increased by 36 per cent in volume terms compared with the corresponding period of last year, according to figures issued yesterday by the British Carpets Export Association. The value of exports over the nine months increased by 57 per cent to £63.8m, compared with a total of £62.5m for the whole of 1973.

Africa freight dearer

Freight rates between Britain and West Africa are to go up by 25 per cent in March, the United Kingdom/West Africa Lines (UKWAL) announce today. Costs had risen by 25 per cent southbound and 35 per cent northbound.

More French jobless

French unemployment rose to a postwar record in November with the number of job-seekers increasing on a provisional basis to 689,200 from 630,000 in October. This was 51.3 per cent above November last year, according to figures announced in Paris yesterday.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Classical error of analysis on banking

From Mr E. C. Cade and Mr A. M. Jablonowski
Sir, Christopher Wilkins' very interesting article on December 6 has taken forward the debate on the stability of the banking system, but unfortunately perpetuates one classic error of analysis.

In the context of the secondary banks, Mr Wilkins would have us believe that "once confidence in a bank has waned and withdrawal of deposits has begun in earnest nothing short of 100 per cent of capital—and that fairly liquid—will suffice to save the bank and enable it to meet all the demands made upon it by depositors".

The fallacy in this contention can be illustrated by the following hypothetical bank balance sheet.

Liabilities	£	Assets	£
Capital	100	Fixed Assets	100
Public Deposits	100	Cash	100
	200		200

It is clear in this example that a total run on deposits can be met from cash, and that neither capital nor the assets in which it is invested are touched by the crisis.

Even if one imagined a balance sheet in which capital was totally invested in cash and deposits were used to fund illiquid assets, any payout of depositors would not affect capital: cash would disappear from the assets side of the balance sheet and there would be an equal reduction in deposits on the liabilities side.

In this situation one would be looking to the illiquid loans for any further repayment of deposits; capital would be of no use.

Mr Wilkins' confusion seems to arise from a disregard of the double-entry book-keeping system. Thus Mr Wilkins suggests that "only that part of the capital which is available to meet short-term requirements should be taken into account".

What he should have said is:

"only that part of the capital which is available as a reserve against losses on the asset side should be taken into account" (quite a different proposition). Capital is not the sort of animal that can be made "available to meet short-term requirements" (ie. withdrawals): it is a credit balance, a liability on the same side of the balance sheet as deposits themselves.

Obviously what is wanted "to meet short-term requirements" is a short-term asset, a debit balance. It does no good at all to mix up the concepts of capital needs and liquidity ratios.

The true function of capital in a bank is firstly to finance those assets which cannot be prudently funded by customers' deposits (that is where the connection with liquidity comes in), and secondly, to provide a buffer against losses on the asset side (otherwise deposits would have to be written off to match bad debts written off—ie. an "insolvency" situation arising from a different cause than a run on deposits).

To sum up, capital and liquidity are two separate though connected issues. Capital does not serve, never has and never could, to meet a run on deposits: it is designed for a different kind of crisis.

It follows that no single formula will suffice to cover these two distinct aspects of bank safety.

Yours faithfully,

E. C. CADE,
A. M. JABLONOWSKI,
68 Havers Lane,
Bishop's Stortford,
Hertfordshire,
December 8.

From the Hon Thomas Stonor

Sir, I am sure that senior executives of banks incorporated in and/or headquartered in this country will have been very interested in Mr Christopher Wilkins' excellent article.

"Finding a new formula to banking strength". Since it is almost certain that all sectors of the banking industry are endeavouring to devise more meaningful and rigorous measurements of capital adequacy, public discussion of the subject is to be welcomed.

The system, already well known by some American banks; others, of allocating capital each risk asset held by a bank when combined with the new tests so ably suggested by Mr Vojta of First National Bank (if such a combination possible) has the distinct merit of ensuring that a bank's capital ratio will be largely influenced by the quality of assets carried by the bank well as by the individual bank management record.

Mr Wilkins, however, points out that "without a wide range of additional information on bank balance sheets, any will be denied the data necessary to assess capital adequacy". I doubt whether any form of balance sheet could provide sufficient data, on its own, for the analyst, investor or depositor.

Rather than expect these "clinging to what is left, they never unsatisfactory" they think, I hope that all the interested in the subject of capital adequacy will seriously consider adopting the formula referred to above, and combine the creation of some form of banking inspectorate which could provide independent judgement on what otherwise might be considered to be a subjective exercise.

Such an inspectorate can presumably be provided by the Bank of England and would therefore of course be respected by the financial community. Yours faithfully, THOMAS STONOR, Alston Court, Nayland, Suffolk, December 9.

British-built sugar beet harvesters

From Mr Roger Wilding

Sir, I was amazed to read in Business Diary, December 6, that "in a timely piece of promotion, Ransomes is showing what it says is the first sugar beet harvester to be designed and built by a British company."

As the editor, and subsequently proprietor, of the then agricultural engineering trade paper in this country (Implements & Machinery Review, later Farm Implement & Machinery Review), I was given an exclusive demonstration round about 1930 of a sugar beet harvester invented by Colonel William Cook and made by his firm, William Cook, Ltd, of Yaxley, Peterborough—obviously a completely British designed and manufactured machine.

Although several of the machines were exported to Russia, it was not a commercial success and went off the market. This was followed soon afterwards by another entirely British machine manufactured by Catchpole Engineering, of Stanton, Bury St Edmunds. Later, in the early 1950s, Mr Peter Standen, of Ely, invented, and his family firm of F. A. Standen & Sons produced a sugar beet harvester which won world-wide sales and recognition—another exclusive British project, styled the "Peter Standen".

This was followed soon afterwards by the "Salmon" sugar beet harvester, invented by late Mr John Salmon, of Alton, near Dunmow, Essex. Another completely British effort, which won an international reputation.

Subsequently, both these ventures produced complete self-propelled sugar beet harvesters, which worked, lifted and cleaned the beet, and delivered it to a trailer running alongside or at the headland. Yours faithfully, ROGER WILDING, 100 Clifton Drive, Fairbairn, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire, December 7.

120 jobs go in Mintex output cuts

By Our Northern Industrial Correspondent

Falling demand for brake and clutch linings and disc brake pads caused by inactivity in the motor car industry has caused 120 redundancies at Mintex, the wholly-owned subsidiary of the Cleckheaton-based BBA group.

Announcing the redundancies, Mr Desmond Pillinger, managing director of Mintex, said the economic and monetary problems facing the country for some time, coupled with the recession in the motor industry at home and abroad had adversely affected demand for the company's products. Factory output had been adjusted accordingly.

Mr Pillinger said: "Arising from this it became apparent that the indirect work force (those not directly concerned with production) was no longer in proportion to the new level of activity, and steps were taken to restrict recruitment and reduce overtime working. These measures have had some effect but are in themselves insufficient to meet our requirements."

North Sea PO links

Contracts for the Post Office to provide telecommunication services for North Sea oil and gas production platforms have been signed by the Total, Mobil and Occidental groups of companies.

Announcing this yesterday, the Post Office said that it was spending up to £8m on shore stations near Peterhead and in south Shetland for new multi-channel microwave radio links,

Christmas pay at risk in Swan Hunter yards

By Ronald Kershaw

There will be no Christmas pay packet for more than 5,000 employees of Swan Hunter Shipbuilders in Tyne-side this year unless a pay dispute involving 600 electricians at the company's five yards is resolved.

The company last night laid off a further 428 men bringing total lay-offs to 4,863. This means that together with the striking electricians well over half of the 10,000 labour force is idle.

Swan Hunter's management is reviewing the situation daily and as lay-offs mount the threat of complete closure increases.

Inactivity on the union side is a source of some puzzlement to the management whose usual experience is that as Christmas approaches greater efforts are made to earn extra money.

The dispute is over a claim by electricians for a basic rate of

£50 a week. The company have offered £46 with fortnightly increases of 15p reaching the £50 figure by the end of next year. The electricians, who imposed work sanctions to back their claim, were given the alternative of working normally, or being removed from the payroll. The men walked out claiming a lockout. The management say they will welcome the men's return if they resume normal pre-dispute working to allow negotiations to continue.

This situation has been aggravated by other trades in the yards imposing working restrictions in support of a similar claim for a £50 basic rate to bring them into line with their opposite numbers in the nationalized Crown Builders shipyard on the Wear, 12 miles away. The company has 50 vessels on order worth nearly £400m.

Midland fears of March crisis

Midland businessmen yesterday attacked the Government's employee protection proposals and gave warning of a general crisis in industry—perhaps by next March.

This emerged from the meeting of the CBI West Midlands Regional Council, which Group Captain J. P. Cecil-Wright, the chairman, described as "the most gloomy I have attended in eight or nine years".

He said council members were reporting a decrease of up to 30 per cent in orders, although capital industries, such as drop forgings, were doing better.

Sheffield plea for waterway grant

Commercial traffic operations along one of Britain's most potentially profitable waterways could disappear completely within the next eight years unless the Government provided financial assistance, the British Waterways Board stated yesterday.

The board wants the Government to provide a grant of £3.2m to support the widening and improvement of the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation, in line with a scheme approved by Parliament earlier this year.

Bilbao court orders Sofico sale

From Harry Dehelius

Madrid, Dec 12
A court in the northern city of Bilbao today ordered the sale at public auction of furniture in the offices of Sofico Renta to satisfy creditors' claims.

However, legal sources said here the auction might be delayed pending a decision from a Madrid court, which is studying a request from the Sofico group to declare a moratorium on payments.

Until its recent financial problems, Sofico was Spain's biggest tourist apartment development enterprise.

The four principal companies of the group—Sofico Inversiones, Sofico Renta, Sofico Vacaciones and Sofico Servicios Turísticos—have now asked for suspension of payments, which is one step short of bankruptcy proceedings.

Sources close to Sofico claimed here that the four major companies have assets totalling £115m and debts of only £59m.

Rural landowners fight

Rural landowners stated yesterday that they were preparing a series of protests over the Finance Bill, as they consider the proposed wealth and capital transfer taxes would squeeze them so much that management and appearance of the countryside would rapidly deteriorate.

Mr John Cripps, chairman of the Countryside Commission, in a letter to the Chancellor, called on him to announce a programme of "additional resources to be made available for landscape maintenance and renewal".

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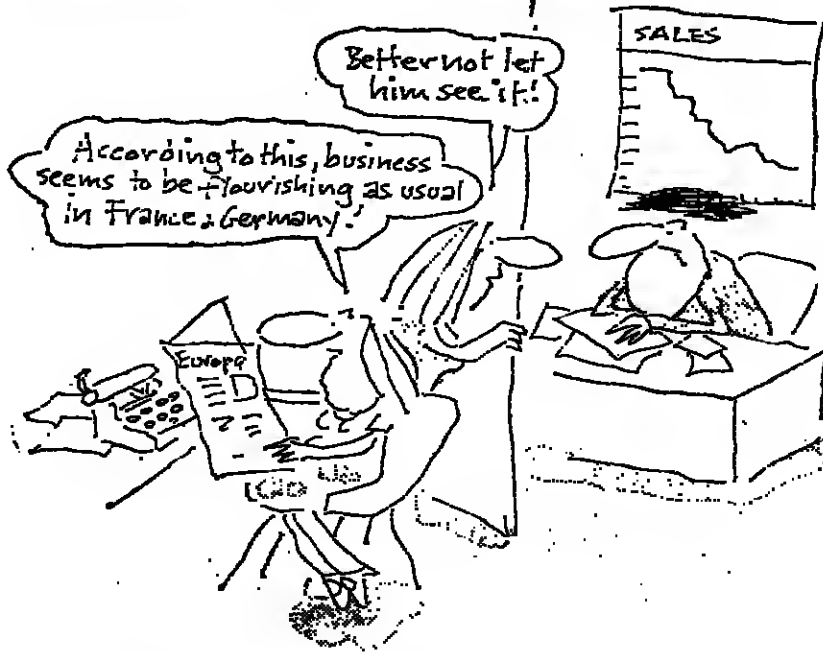
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FINANCIAL NEWS

Arthur Lee moves smartly ahead to reach £3.65m pre-tax

By Our Financial Staff

Expectations of pre-tax profits of around £3.8m from Arthur Lee, the Sheffield steel group, in its year to September 30 last were almost fulfilled with a 74 per cent jump to £3.65m. Sales rose by 36 per cent to £43m.

The directors report that profits would have been even better but for an insufficient flow of materials from United Kingdom suppliers and legislation delaying and curbing increases in selling prices. Stock

profits more than doubled to £1m plus, but were needed to finance replacement of stock.

The gross dividend goes up from 1.83p a share to 2.1p, which satisfied the market. The shares duly hardened 1p to 101p against a year's high of 32p. The yield is now 19.5 per cent and the p/e just under three. They reflect the belief in a cyclical downturn sometime next year, foreboded by the weakness in strip. The overseas content in profits is small.

English Card strengthens

Last year at English Card Clothing started slowly, but the second half produced doubled margins. This trend has continued and the first six months to September 28 has brought a 56 per cent jump in turnover to £6m, and a more than trebled pre-tax profit of £1.35m. The board predicts that the second half will be in line with the first to an outturn of something

like £2.7m is expected, against last year's record of £1.43m.

On attributable profits up from £167,000 to £435,000, the dividend is increased from 1.07p to 1.2p. Earnings a share come out at 7.5p, against 2.8p.

Order books remain good, but circumstances are changing so rapidly that forecasting beyond March, 1975, becomes uncertain.

Redundancy as price of recovery at Dimplex

By Ashley Druker

Predicting the worst some three weeks ago—a £1m turnaround into the red and omission of an interim dividend—Dimplex Industries now say that these losses will not continue for the rest of the year.

The directors base their hopes on steps taken by Dimplex Ltd and Controlled Heating Units which will permit a return to profitability on a reduced turnover.

But since the start of the critical selling season in September, weekly monitoring of sales, stock, production and cash flow has resulted in redundancies for about 350 workers. In the 28 weeks to October 11 the loss amounted to £501,000 which, after a tax credit of some £282,000, gives a net drop into the red of £219,000.

As known there has been a serious deterioration in the business of the major unit, Dimplex Ltd, normally accounting for at least 75 per cent of sales.

A 50 per cent jump in exports was not enough to offset the severe downturn at home.

Associated Food peak at midterm

While other groups have been hit by the legislative controls on margins Associated Food Holdings, the leading grocery distributor within the Spar-Vivo organization, has pushed its taxable profits in the half year to October 26 to peak levels. This was helped by the inclusion of nine weeks' figures before acquisition. Taxable profits show an increase of 21 per cent from £475,000 to £576,000 on sales hunched by 47.6 per cent from £35m to £51.9m. Upward & Rich contributed profits of £53,000 and sales of £2.5m. The interim dividend is being lifted from 2p to 2.98p and the board say they are satisfied with current trading. They expect the full year results to compare favourably with other similar companies in the food sector.

The promised second half recovery by Redfearn National Glass following the first half 33 per cent downturn in taxable profits has materialized. The second half showed a much smaller fall of 11.6 per cent from £949,000 to £839,000 but the full year's profit to September 29 is, nevertheless, down by 20 per cent from £1.5m to £1.2m.

Turnover, on the other hand, has jumped to a peak level of £21m, against last year's £18.3m—the second half producing £11.5m against £9.7m. The total dividend is being raised from 4.46p to 5.01p with a final payment of 3.7p. Earnings per share have fallen from 14.35p to 9.25p.

Anderson Strathclyde £1.2m tax deferment

Up from £1.95m to £2.43m pre-tax in the preceding full year, Anderson Strathclyde last June viewed the outlook ahead as promising. Turnover for the 28 weeks to October 12 was raised from £11.13m to £14.78m, on which trading profit increased from £1.09m to £1.33m, but after interest of £274,000 against nil, the pre-tax is slightly down from £1.09m to

£1.05m. The interim dividend is up from 4.64p to 5.21p. The board states that the recent Budget proposals for deferment of corporation tax offer some ease in the problems of cash flow, and the company will be entitled to a £600,000 repayment. Further payments of about £600,000 due shortly will also be deferred—in total deferring the greater part of the mainstream corporation tax payable for the current year.

Partial recovery by Redfearn

The promised second half recovery by Redfearn National Glass following the first half 33 per cent downturn in taxable profits has materialized. The second half showed a much smaller fall of 11.6 per cent from £949,000 to £839,000 but the full year's profit to September 29 is, nevertheless, down by 20 per cent from £1.5m to £1.2m. Turnover, on the other hand, has jumped to a peak level of £21m, against last year's £18.3m—the second half producing £11.5m against £9.7m. The total dividend is being raised from 4.46p to 5.01p with a final payment of 3.7p. Earnings per share have fallen from 14.35p to 9.25p.

Toothill orders up

Although Mr E. Hall, chairman of R. W. Toothill, furniture manufacturers, expects profit this time to be lower than the previous period's £245,000 pre-tax he believes it will be "reasonably satisfactory" in view of the conditions and justify at least a maintained dividend of 3.25p.

In the half year to September 30 profits before tax were down from £145,000 to £19,000 and sales, excluding VAT, from £1.15m to £756,000. But in recent months order intake has improved substantially and production raised. The indications are that this will continue.

Arlington Motor

Having pushed its interim pre-tax profit up from £367,000 to a record £433,000, Arlington Motor Holdings is looking for a better result for the full term than the £768,000 peak achieved last year.

Turnover increased from £9.9m to £10.9m, while on attributable profits of £200,000 against £184,000, the interim dividend is raised from 2p to 2.10p and a total of at least 8.78p, against 8.68p is expected. The second half has started well with turnover for October and November rising 20 per cent on last term.

Industrial films

Hard sell on Algarve apartments

Sponsored films came in many shapes and at many different levels of sophistication in their approach to audiences. Airport, our Business for potential buyers of Costa's airport experience, has little in common with another new Costa film, *Sometimes I Dream*. This is a straightforward 22 minutes hard selling of the amenities of Vale do Lobo, a 600-acre development in the Algarve in which Costa is in partnership with Tru. Hoses Forte provide for sale or rent houses in "a blend of traditional Moorish and modern Portuguese" styles.

Amenities is the key word: the swimming pools, the 27-hole golf course and the rest look particularly attractive, viewed on a wet December day in London. The audience—again potential customers: but the product, though expensive, is a lot cheaper than an airport, and the customers correspondingly more numerous.

It is a different scene to *Living at Thamesmead* (Tara Films, 27min), from the GLC. The Thamesmead development is a remarkable exercise in planning, and here we have a fairly detailed picture of what has happened so far, semi-fictionalized with two rather idealized teenagers, but with a good ration of the real inhabitants interacting among themselves—recognizably unlike the inhabitants of Vale do Lobo.

Audience here, for a hard-working down-to-earth film, obviously GLC ratapayers, as evidence of money usefully spent, plus the very many people outside London interested in urban development.

Back in the air we have Rothman's *The Display* (VSF Films, 16min). Aviation enthusiasts who are still enjoying *The Wind in the Wires* will welcome this new John Edwards contribution.

The Rothman's aerobatic team and others are seen in vivid action in the setting of an air display: no commentary but some quite extraordinary aerial photography. Audience—everyone interested in the air. Cinema audiences are seeing it now, the kind of sponsored film that can run the ordinary second feature into the ground.

As could *Alice in Label Land* (Richard Taylor Cartoon Films, 13 minutes). It is enlightened of the COI to use brilliant animation, instead of conventional lecture, to "explain in simple terms certain sections of the Labelling of Food Regulations". The Ministry has been well served by a delightful and instructive film. Primarily for schools and consumers' and women's organizations, it is also for Alice fans, who find it closer to Tenniel than ever Disney was.

The Post Office plays it safe to *Hard Day* (Cynnet Films, 15 minutes), a competent story demonstration of some of the ways in which we make our telephone lives more difficult than they need be. *The Badger Account*, two years back, was directed at mainly at management; this is primarily for "extension users", and everyone who has ever suffered at the hands of a switchboard, or indeed an executive concerned to pass the buck, will hope that it gets a wide showing in offices everywhere.

By way of postscript, salute to a new initiative. The first half of an Anglo-German film exchange gave us recently at the Shell Centre six German industrial films including *Au Auto*, that splendidly ironic view of the motor car and the blood it sheds. It won a Grand Prix at Amsterdam in 1972.

The second half of the exchange, early next year, will take a set of British films to Germany: and it may be hoped that this first exercise of its kind, organized on the English side by the British Industrial and Scientific Film Association, will be followed by other such exchanges, bringing some of the best foreign productions to audiences that cannot go to international festivals.

Apologies to Costa. Last time we grossly put a price tag on *Airport* as our business, which is, of course, available on free hire.

Eynon Smart

STEWARTS & LLOYDS OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

Group Results for the year ended 30 September 1974 and Declaration of Dividends

Audited results of the Group for the year ended 30 September 1974 with comparable figures for the previous year are as follows:

	Year ended 30 September 1974	Year ended 30 September 1973
Sales	R9,941	R9,000
Operating Surplus Before Tax	179,265	179,265
Income after taxation	17,873	17,873
Less applicable to minority shareholders	2,769	2,769
Net Income Before Extraordinary Item	15,104	15,104
Surplus Arising on disposal of non-trading assets	9,360	9,360
Net Income	24,464	24,464
Retained income at beginning of the year	0	0
	14,762	14,762

That has been dealt with as follows:	
Distributable Reserve	6,468
Non-Distributable Reserve	151
Preference dividend	36
Ordinary dividend of 18 cents per share on 2,100,533 shares (1973-10 cents)	2,262
Retained income at end of the year	9,360
	14,762

Earnings per ordinary share 41.0 cents 22.1 cents

During most of the financial year your Group of companies enjoyed very favourable market conditions. The unprecedented demand for Group manufactured and factored products and the effects of inflation are reflected in sales and profit performance.

Normal accounting procedure reflects increases in sales and profit before tax of 31% and 50% respectively. In order to reveal real performance and the effects of inflation, the annual report of the Group will contain a detailed comparison of the results published in this notice with the results obtained when inflation accounting techniques are applied. The direct effect of inflation on net income is R5,379,194 which will be transferred to distributable reserves. In our interim report of 29 April 1974 we mentioned that the Group had been given in advance financial policy to cater for the adequate replacement of existing plant and for funding the higher cost of inventory and raw materials and the long-term funds of the Group. Notwithstanding these charges the dividend has been raised from 10 cents to 18 cents per share.

On 13 August 1974, R5m unsecured debentures redeemable between 1976 and 1980 were placed privately at a fixed interest rate of 11.75% or a rate of 1.75% above the minimum commercial bank overdraft rate from time to time, up to a maximum rate of 14.75%.

Towards the end of the financial year a noticeable downward trend developed in the price of the Group's shares. This has impact on approximately 15% of our business. Other market factors have so far remained stable.

These changes in the economy may well indicate the commencement of a period of difficult business conditions.

On behalf of the Board: H. J. KUIPERS Director

T. M. KING Director

Declaration of Dividends

Notice is hereby given that the undermentioned dividends have been declared: Preference dividend, A dividend of 6% per annum for the six months ending 31 December 1974 payable to the holders of the six per cent first cumulative preference shares registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 13 December 1974.

Ordinary dividend No. 12 A dividend of 18 cents per share in the financial year ended 30 September 1974 payable to the holders of the ordinary shares registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 13 December 1974.

The preference and ordinary dividends are declared in the currency of the Republic of South Africa.

In terms of the South African Income Tax Act, 1926, as amended the dividends are subject to the deduction of non-resident shareholders' tax. The tax will be deducted at the applicable rate in the case of shareholders whose addresses in the share registers are outside the Republic of South Africa.

The registers of members, including the United Kingdom Office preference share register, will be closed from 14 December to 31 December 1974, both dates inclusive.

Dividend warrants will be posted to shareholders on or about 1 January 1975. Interest on 7.5% unsecured loan stock.

In terms of the declaration of trust, interest due on the six month period ending 31 December 1974 will be paid on that date. The register of shareholders will be closed from 14 December to 31 December 1974, both dates inclusive.

By order of the Board: E. JOHNSON Group Secretary

2 December 1974

Registered Office

Convoitrekker Street and Rhodes Avenue, P.O. Box 741, Vereeniging, South Africa

United Kingdom Office

Kennedy Tower, 8, Chichester Avenue, Queensway, Birmingham B4 4JP, England

United Kingdom Transfer Office

Charter Consolidated Limited, 10, Watney Road, Ashford Kent, England

The S+L Group

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION GROUP TRANSVAAL GOLD MINING COMPANIES DIVIDENDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that dividends have been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered in the books of the undermentioned companies at the close of business on 27th December, 1974, and to persons presenting the relevant coupons detached from share warrants to bearer. A notice regarding payment of dividends on coupon No. 12 detached from share warrants to bearer issued by the South African Lane & Exploration Company Limited will be published in the press by the London Secretaries of that company on or about 20th December, 1974.

The transfer registers and ledgers of members will be closed in each case from 28th December, 1974, to 10th January, 1975, both dates inclusive, and warrants will be posted from the Johannesburg and United Kingdom offices of the transfer secretaries on or about 6th February, 1975. Registered members paid from the United Kingdom will receive the United Kingdom currency equivalent on 28th January, 1975, of the rand value of their dividends (less appropriate taxes). Any such members may however elect to be paid in South African currency, provided that the request is received at the offices of the transfer secretaries in Johannesburg or in the United Kingdom on or before 27th December, 1974.

The effective rate of non-resident shareholders' tax for 1974 undermentioned companies is 15 per cent.

The dividends are payable subject to conditions which can be inspected at the head and London offices of the companies and also at the offices of the companies' transfer secretaries in Johannesburg and the United Kingdom.

Name of company in which the dividend is payable	Dividend No.	Coupon No.	Rate of dividend per share
East Otagalontine Mines Limited	70	—	10 cents
The South African Lane & Exploration Company Limited	71	72	42.5 cents
Veal Reels Exploration and Mining Company Limited	37	—	120 cents
Western Deep Levels Limited	28	—	80 cents

By order of the Board, For and on behalf of:

ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED, London Secretaries: E. BURROWS.

London Office: 40 Holborn Viaduct, EC1P 1AJ.

Office of the United Kingdom Transfer Secretaries: Charter Consolidated Limited, P.O. Box 102, Charter House, Park Street, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8EQ.

12th December, 1974.

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

OCTOBER 1974

The seven-month gap between the two 1974 elections is the shortest this century. The gravity of the political and economic situation has given added interest to the balance of power and its likely effects. The Times Guide to the House of Commons October 1974 is a unique and invaluable source of reference giving full details of the voting, pictures of all MPs, biographies of members and unsuccessful candidates, a survey of voting trends, and full statistical tables. The pull-out map gives visual details of how the country voted with all the constituency boundaries.

The Times Guide to the House of Commons October 1974 will be on sale in bookshops on December 9, or it can be ordered direct from the publishers by completing the coupon below in block letters using a ball point pen.

To: The Times Guide to the House of Commons, Times Newspapers Limited, 22 Whitby Road, London W1 7SD.

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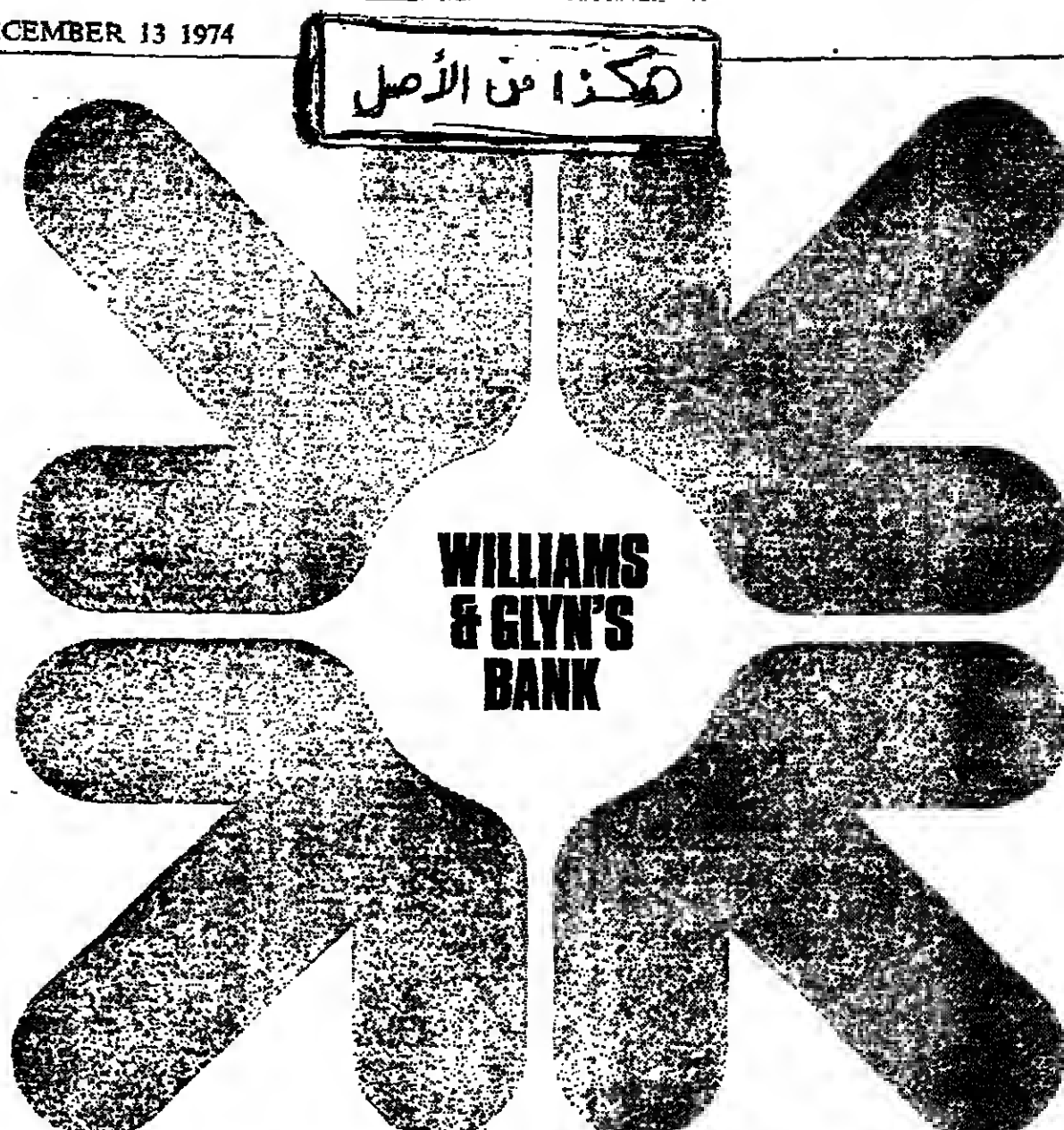


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Statement to the Shareholders by the Chairman, Mr. J. O. Blair-Cunynghame

The Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of National and Commercial Banking Group Limited will be held in the North British Hotel, Edinburgh, on Thursday, 9th January 1975, at 12 noon. The following is from the Statement by Mr. J. O. Blair-Cunynghame, O.B.E., LL.D., D.Sc., Chairman of the Board.

RESULTS

The Group profit before taxation, including the appropriate share of associated companies' results for the year ended 30th September 1974, amounted to £51,336,000 representing an increase of £8,718,000, or 20 per cent, over the previous year. A sum of £4,800,000, after taxation relief, was set aside in Williams & Glyn's Bank this year as an additional provision against advances and after charging this amount the profit after taxation amounted to £20,010,000 compared with £23,325,000 last time.

There were three principal factors common to both banks - indeed to the whole banking industry - which influenced these results. Firstly, costs rose steeply during the year, in our case more than 30 per cent. Secondly, there has been a slower growth of the money supply generally which is reflected in the slower rise in the Group's resources. It is, however, very encouraging to report an increase by both the Royal Bank of Scotland and Williams & Glyn's Bank in their current account totals. Thirdly, although average base rate was 3.7 per cent higher at 12.34 per cent, the rate of increase in the year from September 1973 was again less than in the previous twelve months.

The results of the whole Group during a year of growing difficulty and uncertainty reflect not only the respective experience of the two main operating banks in their rather different commercial environments but also, in aggregate, the strength and flexibility provided by their complementary nature.

Royal Bank of Scotland Group: Pre-tax profits, including associated companies, have increased by £7,935,000, or 36 per cent, to a total of £30,218,000. A substantial rise in foreign currency lending reflects the growing interest of the Royal Bank of Scotland in international business generally. There has also been a significant expansion in the business of the leasing subsidiary due largely to North Sea oil activities.

Williams & Glyn's Bank Group: Pre-tax profits, including associated companies, show a rise of £1,383,000, or 7 per cent, to a figure of £21,758,000. A sizeable contribution to the total profits continues to come from foreign exchange business. The rise in average sterling deposits included an increased share in the total of the London Clearing Banks' current accounts.

THE FUTURE

For us in the banking industry it is a time to exercise our well established principles of prudence and caution and, in providing our traditional service to customers, to conserve our resources so as to be able to give the maximum help to industry and commerce in a whole variety of different situations. These will include calls for large increases in working capital due to inflation and temporary shortages in liquidity arising from the exceptional conditions or to provide fresh capital on medium term avidly required by vigorous new and expanding technology. This last requirement is particularly true of some aspects of Scotland just now.

We do not intend to allow our enterprise or spirit of innovation to be totally eclipsed by today's conditions. Nevertheless one of the heavy burdens of the circumstances is the amount of executive time consumed firstly by dealing with such special situations as the operations to support the secondary banks and secondly by the almost continual dialogue with the authorities on the various technicalities of new practices and procedures which are being evolved to deal with the present situation. In all this work we need and want the closer understanding of the authorities themselves and of our customers and shareholders. Our staff from the most senior to the most junior are carrying the heavy load cheerfully.

If the reason for our present difficulties in this and other countries does indeed lie deep in the hearts and minds of men and is evident in a discontent with the present degree and rate of social change then it is only by a better mutual understanding of each other's anxieties, wishes and objectives that we can make any real progress. The obligation to explain one's own processes and achievements is just as strong as to listen to those of others.

14th November 1974.

SALIENT FIGURES

	1974	1973
Profit before taxation and additional provision against advances	£51,336,000	£42,618,000
Profit after taxation	£20,010,000	£23,325,000
Earnings per 25p ordinary share	8.9p	10.4p
Dividend per 25p ordinary share	2.0082p	1.865p
Deposits and customers' current accounts (including notes in circulation)	£2,727,816,000	£2,141,633,000
Total assets	£3,004,093,000	£2,404,904,000

Copies of the Directors' Report and Accounts containing the full statement may be obtained from The Secretary, National and Commercial Banking Group Limited, 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YB.

National and Commercial Banking Group Limited

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

De Wendel's strong role in effort to block takeover of Firminy

December 12.—Purchases of shares by iron and steel firm De Wendel continue in a determined effort to block a takeover of Firminy by the French-Belgian Schneider Group, which owns 32 per cent of Firminy, recognised a decision to cede this to Denain. After Schneider's opposition, the Firminy board said it could not recommend acceptance of Denain's offer, which is valid until January 23. Meanwhile, the active De Wendel purchases have had the effect of raising Firminy's shares price to the detriment of Denain's bid.

Denain's offer would amount to some 140.8 francs a share. But those of Firminy (on the De Wendel purchases) rose to as much as 159 francs during this week, closing at 156.5 francs. De Wendel started buying Firminy shares early this month when they were requested following the opening of Denain's bid.—AP-DJ.

effect of raising Firminy's shares price to the detriment of Denain's bid.

Record again at United Spring

pite of the shorter week, activity of material, United & Steel Group turns in a profit increased 28 per cent to a fresh record £944,000 over up 37 per cent to a net £12,05m for the year ended December 30. Earnings a share rose from 3.93p to 5.12p while the total payment to shareholders rose from 1.47p to 1.65p. Midway when pre-tax profit rose from £3,000,000 to £3,000,000, Mr David Westwood, chairman, was confident that the profits would show appreciable growth. He said: "The group has turned in a contribution up to forecast."

not maker is up from 2.14p to 2.25p, while earnings a share are ahead from 3.6p to 6.8p.

Substantial cuts in borrowings by Yatton

Although turnover of Yatton Furniture in the half year to September 30 rose from £1,875,000 to £2,200,000, the interim dividend is held at 0.15p. The chairman says borrowings have been reduced substantially during recent months and following a period of short-time working, the group now has a satisfactory order book; all departments are busy. Arlon Furniture, the main subsidiary, returned taxable profits of £12,000 (£116,000) and turnover of £1,86m (£1,59m).

Kengate plan restructure

Working in Slater Walker Trust (SA) profits of the investment reached £0 (£121,000) for the year ended December 30. Turnover, representing the proceeds of sales by the dealing arm, increased from £3,75m to £4,23m. Earnings a share of £5.23p (the net asset value 3p a share at the year end) are a provision in 142p a share) to allow vestment currency pre-losses. It is hoped the part of this provision will be necessary. Assets are being formed to transfer shareholders' interests in the net assets to a company incorporated and based outside the United Kingdom for exchange control reasons.

Clark & Fenn cheer

Clark & Fenn (Holdings), which makes acoustic and other building products, hoisted its taxable profits in the half year to June 30 by 30 per cent to £410,000; and the board are confident that the full year's profit should comfortably exceed £875,000—a new group record. Turnover added 18 per cent to £4,37m. The profit improvement re-

Huntsman brewer

Dorchester brewers Eldridge Pope, which sells draught beers under the brand name of Huntsman, again reports a record pre-tax profit up from £679,000 to £704,000 and the year's record profit down from £2,840,000 to £2,820,000. The final dividend is raised from the equivalent of 2.24p to 3.31p.

Business appointments

Promotions at Allied Breweries

Mr Keith Showering is to become deputy chairman and chairman-designate of Allied Breweries. Sir Gerald Thorpe will retire as chairman and chief executive next September. Mr Derrick Holden-Brown will become an executive vice-chairman as will Mr Tom Boardman. Dr Bernard Kilkenny will become deputy chairman of Allied Breweries (UK) containing a joint managing director of that company.

Mr J. F. Main, chairman of the European division of Rowntree Macintosh, will become chairman of the export division in succession to Mr S. A. Free, who retires on January 20. Mr J. Nutter, chairman of the overseas division, will become chairman of the UK confectionery division on January 1. Mr I. Mackintosh, deputy chairman of the UK confectionery division, will become chairman of the overseas division. Mr D. Cram will succeed Mr W. S. Porous as chairman of the grocery division.

Mr Les Carpenter, recently appointed chairman and chief executive of IPC (excluding the newspaper division) is also to be chairman of IPC Magazines. Mr Edward Pickering, IPC Magazines' former chairman, becomes chairman of IPC Newspapers. Mr Edward Court and Mr Ron Phillips become joint managing directors of IPC Magazines.

The following management appointments have been made by President Mr P. M. Stamp, assistant general manager: Mr S. C. Young, deputy group pensions manager; Mr J. W. Wickson, senior fire and accident manager.

Mr A. R. C. B. Cooke has resigned from the Boards of Jessel Securities, Jessel Trust and the London, Australian and General Exploration Co.

Mr David Beretta becomes chairman and chief executive of Uniryal.

Mr Daniel P. Reid has been made senior vice-president and general manager of Trans World Airlines.

Three appointments have been made to the board of Matthew Hall. They are: Mr A. R. Brown, managing director of Matthew Hall Mechanical Services; Mr C. D. Watson, managing director of Holiday Hall; and Mr P. L. Ware, who has rejoined the group and become managing director of Matthew Hall Engineering. Mr D. E. Clancy has relinquished his position as managing director of Matthew Hall Engineering but remains chairman and chief executive of that subsidiary. Mr A. J. Littlewood, projects director is now deputy managing director of Matthew Hall Engineering.

Seven vice-presidents elected by Amex Inc include: Mr William F. Dierker, Mr W. Hollie Hopper, Mr Everett C. Horn, Mr J. Gordon McCullough, Mr Harry W. Meyer, Mr Alexander Schindler, Mr Michael Simeco. Mr L. C. Hunting is the new chairman of the Hunting Group. He also takes over the chair of the two public companies within the group, Hunting Glass and Hunting Associated Industries. He succeeds Mr C. P. M. Hunting.

Mr D. M. Fowler has been made a director of Johnson Group Cleaners.

Mr Michael Bonn has joined the board of North Atlantic Securities.

The following appointments have been made by Empire Stores managing director: Mr Ralph Scott, finance director; Mr Donald Hale, finance director; Mr John Simon, buying director; Mr C. I. Wells, remains executive chairman. Mr Sam Brostoff has retired as chairman of Farnworth & Sons and is succeeded by Mr John Gratwick.

Mr A. J. H. Buckley, managing director of Slater, Walker Securities, has joined Rockware Group as a non-executive director.

Mr Alan Hall has become the new planning director of the glass container division of United Glass.

Miss Jennifer Tarnham has been appointed to the newly-created position of head of research and consumer affairs within the United Kingdom food distribution division of Booker McConnell.

Stock markets
Share rally fades

The disclosure of a record deficit on overseas trade in November put paid to a technical rally in the equity market yesterday. Share prices put up a brave performance at first, in the face of renewed pressure both on full-sized stocks and on the pound. The trade deficit was slightly below the City's worst fears, but large enough to send shares in the major overseas markets back towards their overnight levels. The FT index, standing at 132.5 ahead of the trade figures news, closed a net 0.4 down at 139.0 (the lowest since June 16, 1974).

Gifts were down again, particularly at the shorter end. But the losses were not as bad as might have been expected after the trade figures and may have reflected a feeling that the decline earlier in the week had discounted a large deficit. "Shorts" opened lower and fell back in the morning. Most stocks were 1 point down before the release of the trade figures, but dropped a further 1 or 2 point after them. The continuing weakness of sterling also unsettled sentiment.

"Longs" were easier as well, but in quite active trading conditions business was occasionally two-way. Most stocks tended to open 1 point lower, but bearishness in the morning more than offset this and by lunchtime prices generally were 1 point up. By the close, however, falls ranged up to 1 point.

In after hours trading a slightly harder tone was discerned, perhaps because of signs that the militants in the miners' union were losing ground to the moderates.

As well as the trade figures, equities were influenced by developments at the miners' union. But the chief factor behind the gentle rise of yesterday morning was undoubtedly technical. ICI, finally unchanged on the day at 115p, looked firm at first but dipped to 115p immediately following

the trade figures announcement. Similar fortunes befell Bechtel (110p) and Courtaulds (65p) unchanged, and Unilever (153p) a share easier.

At 2.15p, Dunlop Holdings showed the effects of a bout of selling which followed reports that a chart analyst had marked them as a "sell".

Newspaper shares were marked down on the production troubles inside the industry. Thomson Organisation fell by 4p to 41p.

But firm features included shares expected to benefit from the developments in southern Africa, with Turner & Newall a good spot at 63p.

For the rest of the United Kingdom industrial share sector, it was a day of small gains which gradually faded towards the end of the day.

Fresh speculation on a bid for Furness Irony added use shares strength. Most of the speculators were quoting remarks made by a major Arab investor at the Lunatic meeting, where references were made to further investments in British companies.

Consumer stocks shared in the general fortune. Marks & Spencer dipped to 90p, and Boots to 90p. Turnover was light on these share prices.

Interest in gold shares was reduced, but with Indian prices firm in London, there was support for the South African producers. Vaal Reefs at 128p were 30p up, and St Helena (138p) and Western Areas (36p) also ended with minor gains. Bank shares were easier. Properties saw little interest.

Equity turnover on December 11 was £35.2m (11,546 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were Cons Colfields, ICI, Unilever, RTZ, Courtaulds, Reed Int, Unilever, and Oil, Charter Consolidated.

Smith Bros, the jobbers, will increase the range of their textile market from December 24 to include stocks handled by Berger & Gosschalk, who cease trading on December 23.

The Times Awards for the best advertisement of a company's results to appear in 1974.

The closing date (31st December) for the 1974 Award Scheme is now very close and we would like to remind those companies wishing to take part in the competition that they must submit their entries by 6th January at the latest. No further entries will be accepted after this date.

Entries should be sent to: Michael Mander, Advertisement & Marketing Director, The Times Awards, The Times, New Printing House Square, London WC1X 8EZ.

Entries will be judged later in January and awards will be presented by The Times at the conclusion of the competition.



to Italy

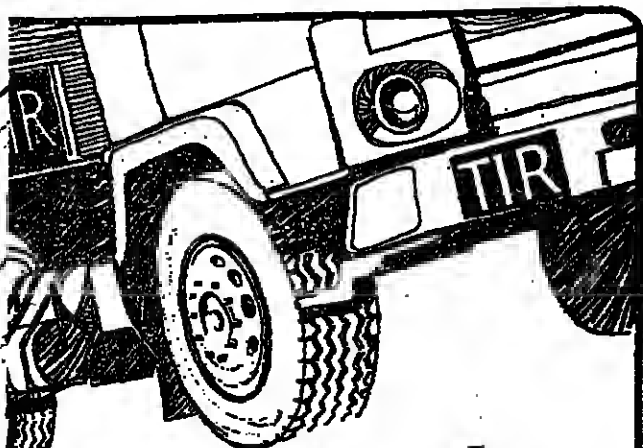
to Chemical Group in a venture with Sayer Lack, which has formed Lankro SPA which is capitalised at 15m lire (about £0). The new company is an equal partnership between the two groups, which will produce urethane foams, and textile coatings. Production capacity is expected to be 200,000 units per year. Sayer Lack has a major position in Italy manufacturing of traditional urethane varnishes for

acquisition by GEI

£334,000 cash GEI Inter, the broadly-based list engineering group has acquired S. A. Welders, of m. The consideration is in equal annual instalments over the next five years, is financed by direct borrowing from Kreditbank Bourg.

on at peak

though the results are son, the group had hoped better. Taxable profits for the year to July 31 are more than doubled to £336,000 but at £360,000 was forecast at time. Turnover is ahead £2.8m to £4.2m, dividend of this bolt and



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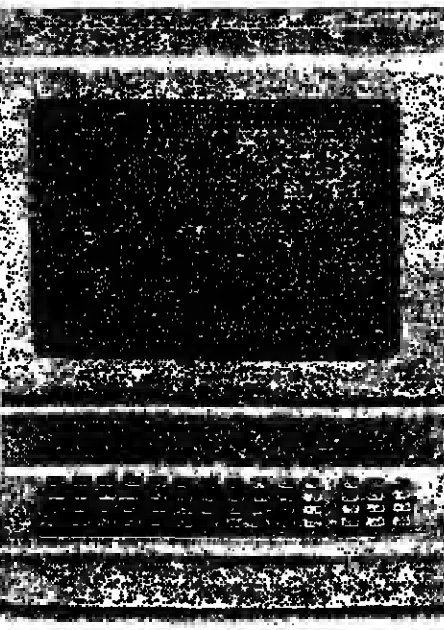
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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Foreign Exchange

Fresh 'low' for sterling

Sterling was driven down to new 'lows' in international currency trading yesterday when a record British monthly trade deficit of £534m was reported for November. This added to anxiety over the economy.

The Bank of England's effective sterling depreciation rate, measured against major currencies, deteriorated to a new 'low' of 21.9 per cent, compared with 21.4 per cent on Wednesday.

Sterling dropped to 2.075

Forward Levels

However, there was some disagreement about the longer-term direction of British interest rates, following renewed pressure on sterling.

While some quarters were confidently predicting that the

Bank of England's minimum lending rate will be hoisted sharply today from its current 11.5 per cent, elsewhere it was believed that the United Kingdom authorities might wish to limit any upward movement in interest rates at present, particularly with international interest levels in the United States and Europe on a downward track.

Gold rose by \$1.75 an ounce to \$173.75.

Discount market

The London money market was very nervous throughout, awaiting the November trade figures which were expected to be the worst ever and not due to be released until the end of the day.

Nevertheless, the markets were to a flat overall state of credit, as discount houses were inclined to stand back when rates were initially asked for 11 per cent.

There were some 'calling' money was making an appearance as the morning wore on, and lunchtime found houses able to put balances at 8 or 9 per cent.

By the afternoon, there was further decline to 6 or 7 per cent. The Bank gave assistance in the afternoon, but it soon became clear that this had been more than generous.

Wide price swings were seen in London sugar futures yesterday before closing at 18 1/2 a ton dearer. The daily price was reduced another £20 to £440 a ton.

Futures held at Wednesday's limit down levels for most of the morning apart from some light buying interest around a mid-session which cleared the selling pools and saw prices temporarily move above the lows. But there was no follow through interest and by the end of the early session March to October were unchanged at £11 down and distant positions £1 higher to £8 below Wednesday's 17.00 hours levels.

Meanwhile the Paris Commercial Court ruled that the difference between the price fixed under Article 22 and the actual price for December 2 must be blocked with the Caisse de Liquidation. At Gerard Bauche, the president of the Rentrera, He said this represents around 200m francs (£18.7m) bearing the legal interest rate of 6 per cent.

The closing time was irregular, March 11.00-11.05, long term 11.05-11.10, 11.10-11.15, 11.15-11.20, 11.20-11.25, 11.25-11.30, 11.30-11.35, 11.35-11.40, 11.40-11.45, 11.45-11.50, 11.50-11.55, 11.55-12.00, 12.00-12.05, 12.05-12.10, 12.10-12.15, 12.15-12.20, 12.20-12.25, 12.25-12.30, 12.30-12.35, 12.35-12.40, 12.40-12.45, 12.45-12.50, 12.50-12.55, 12.55-13.00, 13.00-13.05, 13.05-13.10, 13.10-13.15, 13.15-13.20, 13.20-13.25, 13.25-13.30, 13.30-13.35, 13.35-13.40, 13.40-13.45, 13.45-13.50, 13.50-13.55, 13.55-14.00, 14.00-14.05, 14.05-14.10, 14.10-14.15, 14.15-14.20, 14.20-14.25, 14.25-14.30, 14.30-14.35, 14.35-14.40, 14.40-14.45, 14.45-14.50, 14.50-14.55, 14.55-15.00, 15.00-15.05, 15.05-15.10, 15.10-15.15, 15.15-15.20, 15.20-15.25, 15.25-15.30, 15.30-15.35, 15.35-15.40, 15.40-15.45, 15.45-15.50, 15.50-15.55, 15.55-16.00, 16.00-16.05, 16.05-16.10, 16.10-16.15, 16.15-16.20, 16.20-16.25, 16.25-16.30, 16.30-16.35, 16.35-16.40, 16.40-16.45, 16.45-16.50, 16.50-16.55, 16.55-17.00, 17.00-17.05, 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WV valuers of
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Weatherall LONDON LEEDS PARIS
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Unsettled by trade figures

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WATCHES

Fight to hold Swiss lead in world market

The world market for watches in 1980, on present trends, will be worth about £3,000m. It is a market in which the Swiss, the Japanese, the Americans and the Russians are striving to increase their shares. It seems that the Swiss are losing ground to other countries whose watch industries are growing faster: on the basis of their own production estimates, Switzerland manufactured 39 per cent of the world's output of watches in 1973, compared with 46 per cent in 1967.

Despite the decline in the share of output, production of watches in Switzerland has been increasing at a rate of about 30 per cent over the past six years, and during the first nine months of 1974 exports rose in value by 18.5 per cent (to £366.48m). The high market value of Swiss watches also means that their share of world trade measured in money terms has been greater than the bare output figures indicate.

In the British market, this high valuation is seemingly accepted; although the people marketing Russian watches argue that consumers are beginning to recognize that Soviet jewelled lever watches are of a better quality than many Swiss non-lever mechanical watches.

The figures do not yet support this view: more than four-fifths of imported watches originate in Switzerland. Nevertheless, there is strong competition. Apart from the Russians, the Japanese Seiko company and the American firms Bulova and Timex are bidding strongly for sales.

Survival in this market depends on a carefully defined strategy and efficient performance. Take Ingersoll, the largest single importer of Swiss watches under one name in the United Kingdom, as an example.

Dedicated teamwork by staff and management have brought the Ingersoll Group's pre-tax profits for 1973 to £230,000. Only four years ago, the group recorded a loss of almost £100,000. Mr Joe Bolom, the chairman, believes that the firm's success was a direct result of an aggressive selling policy. Formerly a watch manufacturer in Clerkenwell and later in South Wales, Ingersoll now imports watches from Switzerland and concentrates on effective distribution through jewellers, department stores, and mail order and redemption order catalogues. The watches are mainly in the £5 to £15 price range.

The firm's staff of nearly 100 at their works in Islington includes experts to ensure regular servicing and repairs under guarantee to something like 750 watches daily. This approach helps to maintain a quality image and it is significant that Ingersoll is reluctant to dilute its reputation by marketing through non-jewellery outlets. Watches marketed under the firm's name are assembled in Switzerland to quality standards, specified and monitored by Ingersoll's technical specialists.

But these watches must be bought, and paid for, in hard cash. It is not difficult, therefore, to understand that Ingersoll, in common with

other firms importing Swiss watches, is suffering from the fluctuations of the pound against the Swiss franc.

Mr Frank Edwards, managing director, says: "The fluctuation in rates of exchange is my biggest single headache". For instance, prices agreed in October 1973 for deliveries in 1974 were based on an exchange rate of 7.50 Swiss francs to the pound. Now the rate is about 6.50, and it has been as low as 6.15.

Unfavourable exchange rates alone have pushed costs up 15 per cent in a year, Mr Edwards says. Add the Swiss manufacturers' 10 per cent increase because of workers' pay rises, and he foresees price rises of 15 per cent on average on Ingersoll watches by next Easter. "Increasing our prices by 15 per cent means we are still ignoring the 10 per cent increase in Swiss labour charges."

However, he is not entirely pessimistic about the future of the industry. "Ingersoll, and every other distributor of Swiss watches, must make doubly certain in the coming year that designs and price strategy are right. As the economic situation gets tougher, we at Ingersoll are likely to reap some sales from the more expensive markets; equally, we might lose sales in the competitive younger markets to cheaper brands."

Omega, part of the large Swiss company SSII, operates a similar quality-conscious strategy. But cash and carry warehouses, discount stores and super-markets represent a major opportunity to compete with companies such as Timex, the United Kingdom market leaders in the lower-priced sector of the market.

SSII, therefore, decided to introduce a brand, without the Omega cachet, which can be sold in quantity through supermarkets and similar outlets at prices well below £5. When the Trafalgar Watch Company launched into this new venture with Tesco, it reportedly cleared 250,000 SSII watches in the first 60 days of selling.

Apart from the Timex and Ingersoll ranges which, between them, have about a third of the market, there are numerous brands offered through United Kingdom retailers and suppliers. Those with a significant market share include Accurist, Bulova, Accutron, Newmark, Omega, Rolex and Rotary. Some of these producers are beginning to offer electronic timepieces, although the main market remains with the mechanical watch.

Wrist watches for everyday wear account for the bulk of the industry's production, but there is a market for specialist and pocket watches. Smiths Industries, for example, achieved annual sales of 800,000 stop watches and pocket watches, most of which are sold overseas.

How will the market develop? Mr Edwards thinks electronic quartz watches will become more popular, although he cannot see them replacing, to a great extent, the demand for the good mechanical watch. "The process involved in the manufacture of quartz watches is complex and there is an enormously high wasteage rate. Once the wasteage rate is cut and the watches, therefore, become less expensive to produce, there could be a substantial growth in demand."

Aiming for accuracy

The Horological Federation of Blenue, Switzerland, have reported reliability tests on 1,000 men's wrist watches. The research workers monitored performance for 21 years after purchase. A third of the watches had not required any attention. The rest had needed repair on average after 11 years' wear. The most common fault was loss of accuracy, 32 per cent of the watches repaired were gaining more than a minute or losing more than 30 seconds a day.

In June, 1972, *Which?* magazine published a report on watch repairs. The Consumer Association's tests suggested that "time-keeping was usually regulated inadequately". Repairs also meant that owners were without their watches for several weeks, as it took repairers on average between 14 and 26 days to mend a watch.

The buyers' preference for cheap watches may cause unreliability. Mr Kenneth Blake, editor of the *Watchmaker, Jeweller & Silver-smith*, commented that the attitudes of "cheap and parsimonious". This could be a factor. Or it may be that people rarely follow advice to have their watches checked every year.

A small proportion of today's buyers will pay more for a watch which operates with a minimum of attention. The trouble-free watch is automatic so the wearer does not need to remember to wind it. It is electronic so many repairs can be made simply and quickly. It is waterproof, resistant to shocks and anti-magnetic so the watch can be taken to or from anywhere without risk of damage. And it has a high degree of accuracy, saving frequent adjustments.

The most accurate watches have a basic timekeeping element made of quartz crystal. Great accuracy depends on a facility to divide time into small units, achieved by crystal resonators vibrating at high frequency.

An example is Omega's Megaquartz 2100, which has a guaranteed accuracy of one second a month. It needs no regular servicing and requires only an annual change of battery.

Yet another type of watch being marketed in America claims to display the correct month and day for well over a century. The Synchron 2100, produced by Rago Precision Industries, is solar-powered, storing energy gathered from sunlight, daylight or a simple light bulb. The digital display of date and time in hours, minutes and seconds automatically adjusts to available light. Its makers claim that the watch is thus visible to sunlight, moonlight, or no light at all under 400 ft. of water.

Who is accuracy of the high standard offered to wearers of quartz watches sought after? Mr Richard Elliott offered this explanation in a lecture to the British Horological Institute: "It is my opinion that with the introduction of battery-wind watches and battery watches capable of running for the best part of a year, an accuracy of one to two minutes a week is not good enough. The public has therefore stimulated a demand for greater accuracy, which has generated the present flush of interest in the tuning fork movements and the quartz crystal controlled movements."



Visitors watch repair specialists at work on collectors' items in the new international museum of horology in Switzerland.

£2m monument to temps perdu

How can clocks and watches be classified—those fascinating objects which, in the space of a few hundred years, have come to dominate our lives? A science? An art form? Or merely the outward manifestation of man's preoccupation with time?

If there is an answer to that question, it is perhaps to be found in the little museum of horology in the Swiss Jura, where a new £2m international horological museum was opened in October.

The museum, aptly named by the Swiss *L'Homme et le Temps*, traces the growth of clock and watch-making since medieval times when making a clock was merely a sideline for inventive blacksmiths. But at the same time the collection of more than 3,000 exhibits clearly shows the development of clocks and watches as objects of beauty. In showcases near by the latest developments in watchmaking are shown in a form that can be easily updated.

Explanatory films with commentaries unfortunately limited to French and German enlarge upon the exhibits.

At the museum, says a spokesman, "We are part historical, part modern; and we like people to make a comparison between the two parts of the museum."

"First, this is a museum which shows the evolution of watches—the only museum of its kind in Europe. The exhibits are supplemented by a collection of documents which are available to students."

"But at the same time we show the latest discoveries—things like quartz and atomic watches. We demonstrate to tourists, collectors and students the industry's search for perfection."

The museum, beautifully laid out in a modern, concrete building with plenty of room for expansion, is owned by La Chaux de Fonds, and was financed partly by the town and partly by private donations. It replaces a former clock and watch museum which dated from the beginning of the century.

The exhibits have been built up over the years from gifts and from visits to international watch auctions. Many of the items are irreplaceable and therefore priceless, but Mr Curd, at the watch manufacturing school in La Chaux de Fonds, values the collection at about £4m.

Development of the turret clock, beloved of the Swiss and the French, is traced from the blacksmith's weight-driven clocks through the reigns of Louis XII, Louis XIV, Louis XV and Louis XVI to the gaudily-painted Neuchâtel clocks of the present.

In the nineteenth century clocks were transformed into the construction of a "grande sonnerie" (or strike) models which strike the hour and the quarter. Musical automata, for instance, were a big development, developed in this.

Surprisingly, the nineteenth century also saw the appearance of the first digital watch, with the hour appearing on the watch face in figures. Another apparent modern innovation, the winding watch, also goes back farther than one might expect—for it was invented by A. L. Ferrel (1826).

Britain's role in the development of clocks and watches seems to be centred upon marine chronometers, a vital aid to navigation.

The introduction of metric system in the nineteenth century increased the accuracy measurements and also the development of interchangeable watch components. Today, Swiss watch development is partly in the hands of laboratories like Horological Electro Centre, jointly owned by Swiss watch manufacturers which pioneered the quartz watch in 1967, which is now investigating the application of microelectronics to the horology industry.

Rabin M.

Clocking up a big advantage

The Economist Intelligence Unit carried out a survey of the Swiss watch industry in 1972. Their investigation indicated that the number of manufacturers was falling steadily, from 1,270 in 1967 to an estimated 1,135 in 1971. Meanwhile, the number employed in the industry was reduced, although output was higher. The implication is

that the industry has been achieving improved productivity by concentrating its manufacturing facilities. Increasing the scale of operations brings several benefits, especially to component manufacturers such as Ebauches who can sustain long production runs economically.

Substantial capital invest-

ments can be made to make processes automatic, especially in precision engineering and quality control. Also, there are often opportunities to improve the economics of buying in materials or parts.

The Japanese manufacturer, Seiko, has made progress with some of these aims. As an example, automatic timing units are being

used to check 10 watches simultaneously in six different positions. Later in the assembly process 20 cases are packed at a rate in a revolving box. Photographs are taken automatically of the dials, and the images then compared with the correct time. The quality control in normal production works to accuracy of within three seconds a day. Seiko has the capacity for greater precision: the company has

invested in a caesium atomic clock with a maximum variation of one second every 300 years.

There is an interesting difference between the major European manufacturers and Seiko. The Japanese company rarely buys in components, preferring to manufacture all the various parts which make up a watch. Seiko has recorded great advances in component manufacture, not the least of

which is the economical machining of critical parts to a tolerance of 1/25,000th of an inch.

The European watchmakers have not been standing still. C. Haas Co, Schramberg, has developed a laser technique for micro-operations in quantity production.

As the quality of electronic watches develops, larger scale operations will be necessary to support the research to keep up with the market.

Why Queen Victoria waited so long

By the end of this year, the watch industry may well have spent about £17.5m on advertising in the United Kingdom.

Timex has been running a campaign with an allocation of £640,000 for the 12 months ending January, 1975, three-quarters of which is being devoted to television commercials. Smiths Industries, which won a film export order for stop and pocket watches last March, began a £150,000 consumer advertising campaign two months ago. It will continue until mid-April, featuring automatic and women's fashion watches, electronics and digital.

The £100,000 SSII campaign to launch the Lanco range of jewelled watches is running now and last June the Swiss watch industry spent £50,000 on a promotion tour around seven cities in England and Scotland.

This support helps to encourage the retail jeweller to stock the advertised brands. Leading manufacturers and distributors offer further backing in terms of practical assistance and advice on the display of watches. The trend is towards a more brash approach. Among retail jewellers who stock popular makes of watch and compete with supermarkets and chain stores, there is growing interest in hard-selling methods. Mr Tony West has put over the new concepts clearly in the *Watchmaker, Jeweller & Silversmith*.

There are still too many people walking around with any old watch on their wrist, the sort of people who are

quite willing to buy all sorts of other expensive items from clothes to cameras, but who never give a thought to something they wear every day, their watch. There are several avenues of attack to overcome this apathy.

"The first is to play upon the customer's 'image', what he imagines he looks like to the outside world, and make him ashamed because his watch does not live up to the aura of assurance or sophistication he is trying to present."

"The second idea is more crude, although I think most jewellers would have to agree it has worked successfully, in selling just about everything from television sets to cigars, to insinuate that the man will be a social failure if he doesn't wear a smart watch."

"The third way, of course, is the educational approach, logically explaining the mechanical marvels, the intricate extras."

Sophisticated consumers with the money are encouraged by more or less subtle advertising in the quality newspapers and magazines. Patek Philippe, for instance, promote their watches with the proviso: "Should you find that you have to wait a little for your Patek Philippe, remember that Queen Victoria waited 11 months for hers. Some things in life are worth waiting for."

Advertising and promotion no doubt produce their effect, but the image which sells in any old watch on their wrist, the sort of people who are

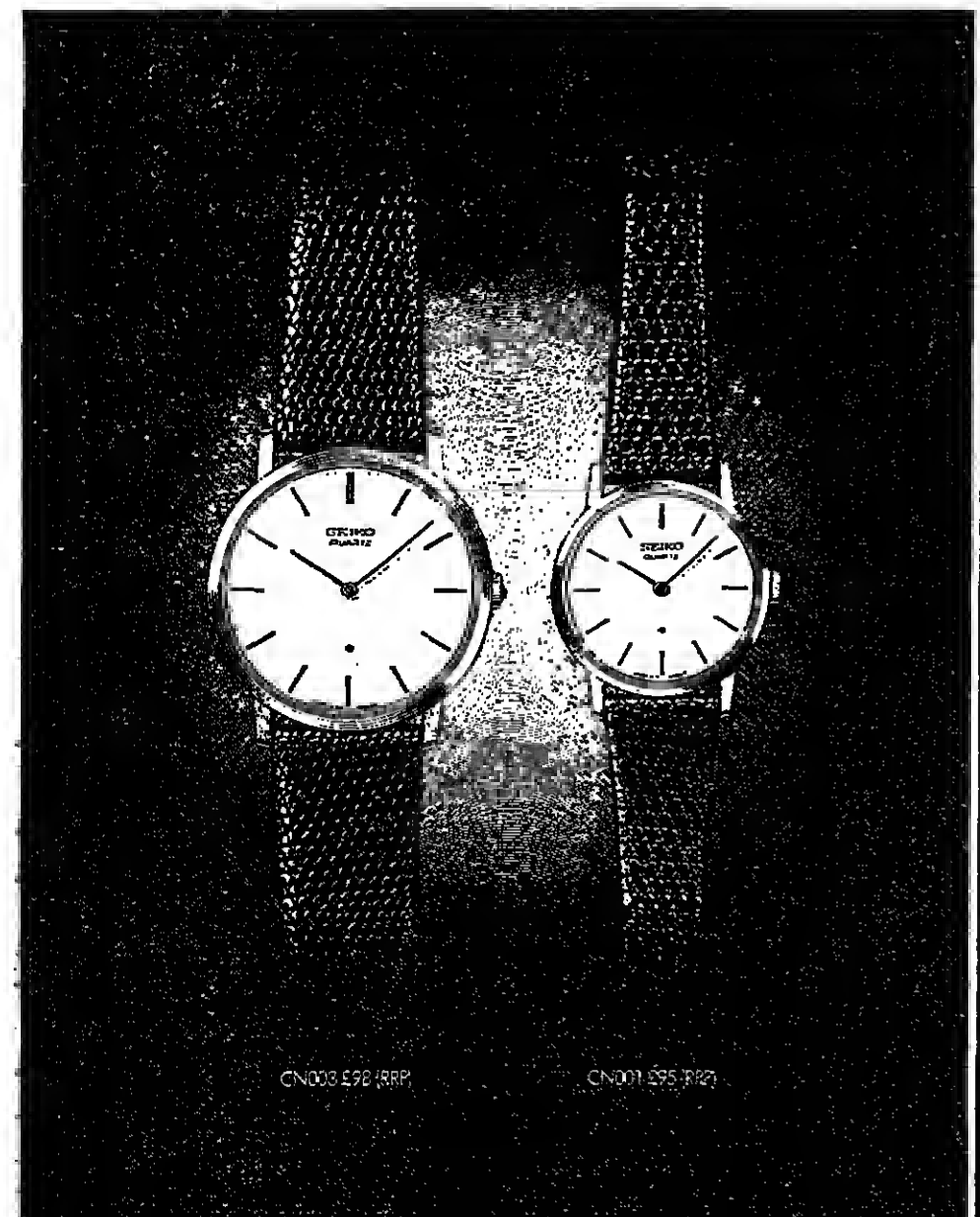
the medium and high price the sought-for product. The Swiss jealously guard this reputation.

One development which has worried them is the appearance of imitation Swiss watches, assembled in Asia or southern Europe. Their concern has led to the setting up of a Federation of Watch Manufacturers' Associations to seek out and discourage production of counterfeit Swiss watches.

Another target of the watch "pirates" of South-east Asia is the giant Japanese Seiko company. A story—perhaps apocryphal—circulating among watch manufacturers concerns one of Seiko's directors. On his desk he displays samples of the range of watches produced in his factories in Japan: neatly aligned behind each model is what appears to be its exact replica—made in Hongkong.

The problem is a small but nagging one for the world watch industry. Of greater moment is the question of sustaining or increasing market shares as competition develops. Attention is being paid to the fine detail of marketing. The clock and watch division of Smiths Industries, for example, has been gradually switching the emphasis of many of its product lines to the brand name Astral. The name was chosen to appeal to the watch buyers of the late 1970s.

For the consumer, with any luck, the intense competition could mean attractive prices and improved guarantees and servicing.



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SEIKO

مكتبة من الأصل

Strap a computer on your wrist

Watches of the future will contain a microscopic computer. The authority for this prediction is RCA in the United States, manufacturer of integrated circuits for watches. By 1980, RCA says, watches will alert the wearer a few days in advance of birthdays and anniversaries. The computers will be programmed to adjust the watch automatically for summer time and to take account of the number of days in the month.

Meanwhile, the ground is being prepared for electronic brain watches by the introduction of digital displays which are beginning to gain market acceptance. Ingersoll, for instance, has recorded a growing demand for its range of digital watches which operate on a mechanical basis.

Digital watches with no moving parts are beginning

to compete with mechanical systems. Two forms of battery-powered display are being employed. One uses gallium arsenide-phosphide electro-luminescent diodes, triggered by a control huttoo or switch.

When the command button on Omega's Time Computer is pressed, the time in hours and minutes is shown for 11 seconds and then replaced by the seconds for as long as the huttoo remains depressed. Displays of this kind require a lot of power by watch-battery standards; so the figures are difficult to read in bright sunlight.

Research and development on new and better methods are continually being reported. Manufacturers are showing interest in an alternative to electro-luminescence. Liquid crystal systems give continuous displays which require only low voltages. The display is activated by a magnetic field which

causes transparent crystals to become opaque and reflect light, so that they are visible in well-lit surroundings.

How will digital displays fare against the tried and familiar methods? Some industry leaders are sceptical of the prospects. M. P. Braunschweig, the president of Socrem International, offered this view: "The display can be obtained by classical hands, or by optoelectronic means, characterized by luminous figures appearing on a dial. The latter technique has its followers, but reading the time by the hand arrangement is a habit which will not be supplanted very soon, since it depends on a particularly rational principle."

Unless otherwise indicated, articles in this briefing were written and researched by John Myers and Penny Taylor.

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I remember a watch costing, I believe, £23,000 and that was huge money eight or nine years ago. To the buyer of this scientific, hand-crafted collector's piece (of which I seem to recall there were only three in the market) went a spare crocodile strap to replace the stainless steel bracelet (no, it was not gold).

With it also went a permanent invitation to stay on a Swiss estate and to hunt, shoot or fish there. Fortunately, most people have watches without such inducements. All they need is the time.

Time Teacher is the name of this educational watch (right). The usual figures are there with small, clear captions alongside that read "5 past", "10 past" and so on to relate the hand positions to familiar time phrases. With red or blue strap and tough enough for the young to wear, it is by Smiths Industries and sells at about £5.84.

The Rolex Sea-Dweller (left) is guaranteed to a depth of 2,000 ft! An experimental Rolex Oyster diverd nearly seven miles beneath the Pacific trapped to Professor Parviz bathyscaphe Trieste where pressure topped six tons square inch. The Rolex patent valve to allow escape of gas was born of the decompression chambers used for underwater exploration. The deep-sea watch is self-winding and sells for about £207. It works just as well on dry land, giving date as well as time.

Digital time on a Seth Thomas Quartzmatic (right), accurate to within 60 sec a year. Dark digits stand out on the grey dial; in silvertone case with brocelet-type strap, this costs about \$140 from General Time.

Omega's Megawatt: 2,400 (above) is guaranteed to be accurate to within a second a month. A minute wafer-thin quartz crystal vibrates inside it at the rate of nearly 2,400,000 times a second when stimulated by the electric current from the radio, aspirin-sized battery. The hour and a half unit can be independently set, and the watch resists shock, magnetic fields, water and temperature changes while the fixed, waterproof case keeps out dust and humidity. With colander, this watch costs \$2,050 in 18-carat yellow gold but a stainless steel model is on the way, to sell for \$440.

in the market for watches bought by the young, but there are other demands at least as important. Great interest is expressed in extraordinary designs. A watch, for instance, with bird feather pointers finds some acceptance among young people. Brightly coloured and with broad straps, watch cases in heavy steel or plastic gain attention. There is always the chance that an eccentric designer will find admirers who are willing to take his product at face value without comparing it with

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ould you require further
ormation, please contact the
concessionaires (United Kingdom).
KAY ASSOCIATES,
Clay Street, Burton On Trent,
Es. DE15 9BD. Telephone: 0283-66218

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

Organizations
British Horological Institute,
Upton Hall, Upton, Newark,
Nottinghamshire; British
Clock and Watch Federation,
2a Battlefield Road, St
Albans, Hertfordshire; La
Chambre Suisse de
l'Horlogerie, 65 Avenue
Léopold Robert, La Chaux-
de-Fonds, Switzerland.

Publications
Horological Journal, Box No
 22, Ashford, Kent TN23 1DE;
Retail Jeweller, Northwood
 House, 93-99 Goswell Road,
 London, EC1V 7QA;
*Watchmaker, Jeweller &
 Silversmith*, 40 Bowling
 Green Lane, London, EC1;
*Journal Suisse d'Horlogerie
 et de Bijouterie*, 23 Avenue

de la Gare, Lausanne 1001,
Switzerland; *British
Jeweller & Watch Buyer.*
St Duosrao's House, Carey
Laoe, London EC2 8AA, and
27 Frederick Street,
Birmingham B1 3HJ.

The Economist Intelligence Unit: The UK market for Clocks and Watches, special report No 3, Retail Business Jan 1974; Watches in Switzerland. Marketing in Europe. Aug 1972.

Department of Industry:
Business Monitor No PQ 352
(available from the
Stationery Office on
subscription)

European Watch, Clock and Jewelry Fair, Basle: list of exhibitors and buyers guide, published in the *Journal Suisse d'Horlogerie et de Bijouterie*.

The unit also found that the age at which children first receive watches is falling, presumably because of a growth in affluence and the spread of nursery and pri-

mary education. One manufacturer has had the wit to foster this education by producing a timepiece designed to teach children to tell the time. The dial is marked five past, 10 past and so on to encourage learning the func-

perhaps the next development will be a similar version for digital displays to stimulate future growth in this sector.

VALUE (%) OF WORLD TRADE, 1972*	
U.S.	12.5
U.S.S.R.	10.0
U.K.	9.0
France	7.5
Germany	7.0
Italy	5.0
Japan	4.0
Canada	3.0
China	2.0
India	1.0
Other	38.0

	Imports	Exports
Franca	4	5
Italy	5	3
Japan	6	17
Spain	8	—
Switzerland	4	69
US	29	1
UK	9	1
W Germany	11	4
Others	24	—

*Including watch movements and cases.

Source: *OECD trade statistics*

	1973		Jan-Sep 1974	
	000	£'000	'000	£'000
480		2,753	1,044	4,155
160		148	311	428
na		875	na	1,512
na		12,077	na	1,033
		15,853		7,128

WORLD PRODUCTION

	Numbers in millions											
	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1968	1969	1970	1971		
	%	%	%	%	%	%						
Switzerland	88.7	45	71.8	44	73.7	42	72.3	41	78.2	40	84.3	39
Japan	7.5	17	21.5	13	23.8	14	24.4	14	25.6	13	27.9	13
Soviet Union	200.0	13	21.0	13	21.5	12	24.0	13	25.0	13	25.5	12
United States	17.1	17	19.0	12	20.0	11	21.0	12	22.0	13	23.0	12
France	9.0	6	10.8	6	11.0	6	12.5	7	14.1	7	15.3	7
West Germany	8.5	6	8.3	5	8.2	5	7.1	4	8.5	4	9.3	4
China	1.5	1	1.5	1	5.0	3	3.5	3	3.5	3	9.1	4
Others	9.9	7	10.4	8	11.3	6	13.3	7	16.7	9	19.9	9
Total	152.2		163.4		174.5		178.1		195.6		214.3	

Source : La Chambre Suisse de l'Horlogerie
UN TRADE

UK TRADE

Imports	1972		1973		Jan-Sept 1974		1972	
	'000	£'000	'000	£'000	'000	£'000	'000	£'000
Watches	8,834	17,884	8,878	25,027	5,250	20,469	496	1,671
Assembled watch movements	963	2,224	1,167	3,208	650	2,864	100	81
Watch cases and parts	na	1,326	na	2,686	na	2,661	na	773
Other parts of watches	na	1,988	na	3,057	na	2,937	na	9,762
Total value		23,420		33,976		28,931		12,287

Source: UK foreign trade statistics

VALUE (%) OF WORLD TRADE, 1972*	
U.S.	16.5
U.S.S.R.	10.5
U.K.	10.0
France	8.5
Germany	7.5
Italy	5.5
Japan	5.5
Canada	4.5
China	3.5
India	3.0
Other	25.0

	Imports	Exports
Franca	4	5
Italy	5	3
Japan	6	17
Spain	8	—
Switzerland	4	69
US	29	1
UK	9	1
W Germany	11	4
Others	24	—

*Including watch movements and cases.

Source: *OECD trade statistics*

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160		148	311	428
na		875	na	1,512
na		12,077	na	1,033
		15,853		7,128

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detailed knowledge of all aspects of the responsibilities of the Welsh Office and to develop a special interest in some of them.

Applicants must have a good journalistic background and a thorough knowledge of Wales and Welsh affairs. The ability to speak Welsh would be an advantage.

Starting salary, as Principal Information Officer, will be between £4,500 and £6,000 according to qualifications and experience. Promotion prospects and non-contributory pension scheme.

For full details and an application form (to be returned by 8 January 1975) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone BASINGSTOKE 39222 ext. 500 (or, for 24-hour answering service, LONDON 01-839 1992). Please quote G/H1, 633, 3.

Welsh Office - Y Swyddfa Gymreig

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DEPARTMENT OF ORGANIC CHEMISTRY AND MICROBIOLOGY

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Appointments

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